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Japan

Japan: U.S. President Clinton Arrives; Summit Previewed

OW1604090996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived at Tokyo's Haneda airport Tuesday [16 April] afternoon for a three-day state visit to Japan and talks with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

The two leaders will meet Tuesday evening over an unofficial dinner at the Akasaka state guest house.

The metropolitan police department will have some 22,000 officers and riot police stationed at key locations every day to provide security during Clinton's visit, police sources said.

The U.S. leader's official program in Japan will begin Wednesday morning with his attendance at a welcoming ceremony and he and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will also have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, officials said.

The formal summit between Clinton and Hashimoto will take place Wednesday, after which the two countries will release two documents — one reaffirming the importance of the bilateral security regime and another delineating the future course of overall relations between the two countries.

They will then hold a joint press conference.

Both Clinton and Hashimoto are expected to express their determination to maintain and strengthen the bilateral security alliance for peace and stability in east Asia, Japanese and U.S. officials said.

Clinton flew to Tokyo from South Korea's cheju island, where he met President Kim Yong-sam and agreed to propose four-way talks with North Korea and China "as soon as possible and without preconditions" to help achieve a permanent peace agreement on the Korean peninsula.

In preparation for the Clinton visit, Japan and the United States signed a pact Monday on mutual supply of military goods and services as part of efforts to enhance their security cooperation in the post-Cold War era.

The two countries also officially agreed Monday to strive to reduce by about 4,700 hectares, roughly one-fifth the area of land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa prefecture.

Hashimoto and Clinton may also discuss outstanding trade disputes, such as the insurance, photographic film and semiconductor markets.

Japan and the U.S. failed to resolve their insurance dispute in two days of talks in Washington, but they agreed to set a June 1 deadline for settling the issue.

Deadlines for negotiations on film and semiconductors are set for July. The recent bilateral aviation dispute was settled prior to the visit.

Also on Wednesday, Clinton will go to the U.S. Yokosuka Naval Station, in Kanagawa prefecture southwest of Tokyo, to meet military personnel, and will later call on Emperor Akihito.

On Thursday, Clinton will deliver an address to the Diet and visit a Tokyo car showroom of Chrysler Corp., before leaving in the evening for Russia to attend a multilateral summit on nuclear safety.

Clinton was originally scheduled to visit Japan last November to attend an informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Osaka and meet with then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo. He postponed the trip due to a stalemate with Congress over the federal budget.

Hashimoto and Clinton will also pledge efforts to ease the heavy security burden placed upon the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Okinawa, citing an interim report released Monday by a Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on U.S. bases on the island, officials said.

The bilateral security partnership has been in the spotlight since a 12-year-old schoolgirl was abducted and raped in Okinawa last September by three American servicemen, who have been jailed for the crime by a Japanese court.

In the special panel report, Tokyo and Washington agreed to reduce by about 20 percent the area of land occupied by u.S. bases in Okinawa prefecture, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, including the return of the Futemma A[illegible]tion within five to seven years.

The reversion of the Futemma base has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to realign, consolidate and scale down U.S. military facilities and sites in Okinawa, ahead of Clinton's Japan visit.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is in Okinawa, although the island prefecture accounts for only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

Clinton will leave Tokyo on Thursday afternoon for Moscow via St. Petersburg to attend a weekend conference on nuclear safety to be attended by the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers as well as Russia and Ukraine.

Japan: Ikeda Says Clinton Summit 'Will be Significant'

OW1604020296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0144 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — The upcoming summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton will be significant in strengthening a cooperative bilateral relationship for the future, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Tuesday [16 April].

"It will be very significant in that it is intended to forge a new Japan-U.S. Partnership for the future," Ikeda told a news conference, referring to Wednesday's bilateral summit.

Clinton will arrive in Japan on Tuesday evening for a three-day state visit, the major aim of which is to reaffirm the importance of the bilateral security alliance in the post-Cold War era.

Ikeda repeated his oft-stated contention that the Japan-U.S. security partnership is not only conducive to the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region but also of the whole world.

Tokyo and Washington should beef up their cooperative relationship through the reaffirmation of the 45-year-old bilateral security regime, he noted.

Japan: Hashimoto To Urge Opening of U.S. Air Passenger Talks

OW1604033996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0331 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will call for opening talks on the contentious passenger segment of the Japan-U.S. aviation treaty when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday [17 April], Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei said Tuesday.

"The problem will not be solved if we don't get to the table," Kamei said at a news conference after a cabinet meeting.

Japan has been urging the United States at working levels to start passenger aviation talks, following the conclusion of a cargo-sector agreement in late March.

The U.S., however, has yet to give a positive answer to the request, saying U.S. carriers have conflicting interests about the accord, aviation sources said.

In the passenger sector, U.S. carriers are operating more than double the number of trans-Pacific flights run by Japanese rivals.

Japan expects to redress the imbalance between Japanese and U.S. passenger aviation interests through negotiations.

It hails the cargo-sector deal for effectively equalizing air cargo rights of carriers on both sides of the Pacific.

The accord calls for giving Japan Airlines equal rights with U.S. carriers who were granted rights in the original 1952 bilateral aviation treaty. It also allows Nippon Cargo Airlines and United Parcel Service of America to expand their services.

Japan: Transport Minister Signs Japan-U.S. Air Cargo Accord

OW1604073796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0658 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei on Tuesday [16 April] signed a final agreement on Japan-U.S. cargo aviation, which effectively awards the same rights to Japanese cargo carriers as those enjoyed by U.S. rivals under the 1952 Bilateral Aviation Treaty.

"It is truly gratifying that we have almost achieved equality between Japanese and U.S. cargo aviation interests 43 years after the conclusion of the (original) treaty," Kamei said after the signing.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena had already signed the agreement, which is expected to go into effect in May after diplomatic procedures, according to Japanese Government sources.

The air cargo accord will shift the focus of bilateral aviation talks to the passenger sector, and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will ask for negotiations to be opened on that sector when he meets President Bill Clinton on Wednesday in Tokyo.

The accord grants Japan airlines equal privileges to those given to three U.S. carriers, including Federal Express, under the 1952 treaty. It also greatly expands Nippon cargo airlines' access to U.S. airspace.

Meanwhile, the pact allows United Parcel service of America, which is not one of the three privileged U.S. carriers, to boost its flights to Kansai international airport and to operate beyond Kansai to third countries.

Japan: Tokyo Questions if U.S. Law on Cuba Violates Treaty

OW1604152296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1514 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, April 16 KYODO — Japan's envoy to the World Trade Organization

(WTO) said Tuesday [16 April] the U.S. law tightening its embargo against Cuba may violate the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, according to trade officials.

Minoru Endo expressed strong concern about the "extraterritorial" nature of the U.S. law at the WTO's General Council meeting, the officials said.

The law includes provisions allowing Cuban-Americans to sue in U.S. courts third-country companies, which have invested in Cuba, over alleged "trafficking" in properties expropriated from them after the Cuban revolution in 1959.

The law was enacted last month following Cuba's downing of two small U.S.-based private planes within cuba's territorial airspace in February.

Endo was quoted as saying, "we will take recourse to WTO procedures, should the need arise."

Endo's remarks were the first criticism by Japan of the U.S. law at a formal meeting of the WTO. Japanese officials said they had already raised the issue in the organization for economic cooperation and development, a forum of advanced countries.

Japan kept silence on the issue at the last meeting of the WTO Council of Trade in Goods, when a dozen representatives of WTO members, including the European Union (EU) and Canada, hit out at the United States.

At the Tuesday meeting, the EU repeated its "serious concern" over the law and also told the assembled trade envoys that it would examine ways of "defending their rights" at a meeting of EU trade ministers next week, according to the officiials.

Canada and Mexico said they were seeking consultations on the matter with the U.S. under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

A dozen other envoys also reiterated their concern, particularly about the "extraterritorial" application of certain provisions of the new U.S. law.

Booth Gardener, the U.S. ambassador to the WTO, told the envoys that Washington is still working on "guidelines and mechanism" to implement the key provisions of the act through consultations with its trade partners, the officials said.

Japan: MITI's Tsukahara 'Hopes To Meet' With U.S.'s Kantor

OW1604030696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara said Tuesday [16 April] if time permits, he hopes to meet with newly appointed U.S. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor after Wednesday's Japan-U.S. summit.

Tsukahara told a news conference he will be able to work with Kantor "in a friendly atmosphere" because the Department of Commerce and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry will have to work together on many fronts.

Kantor was appointed as commerce secretary last weekend to succeed Ron Brown who died in a plane crash in Croatia earlier this month. He will arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday as a member of President Bill Clinton's entourage.

"I don't expect to talk about semiconductors and photographic film" at the meeting, Tsukahara said. Microchips and photo film, along with insurance, are the three remaining contentious trade issues between Japan and the United States.

Meanwhile, Tsukahara said he expects to meet with Charlene Barshefsky, who was appointed to serve as acting U.S. Trade Representative, in Kobe on Thursday before the meeting there of trade ministers from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the U.S.

Tsukahara said he will explain the agenda of the quadrilateral meeting to Barshefsky at the meeting. If Barshefsky brings up semiconductors and photo film, "I will only explain our basic positions" on these issues, he said.

Japan rejects a U.S. call for renewal of the 1991 bilateral semiconductor agreement, saying the pact has fulfilled its role. The Japanese and U.S. chip industries are negotiating in a move to break the government-level impasse.

On film, Tokyo refuses to accept bilateral talks on U.S. complaints about anticompetitive problems in the Japanese film market, saying competition issues should be handled by the Fair Trade Commission.

Japan: Kubo: U.S. 'Might Ask' For Continued Economic Recovery

OW1604021296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo suggested Tuesday [16 April] that the United States might ask Japan to continue its efforts to achieve economic recovery, when he meets Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers in Tokyo this week.

At a news conference, Kubo said, "I think there may be requests from the U.S. side from the macroeconomic viewpoint."

Kubo said the two nations are arranging talks between him and Summers, who will arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday evening, traveling with U.S. President Bill Clinton on his three-day state visit to Japan.

Kubo declined to comment on how Japan would respond if the U.S. asks it to maintain its current easy monetary stance.

Since last September, Japan has maintained the official discount rate — the rate imposed by its central bank on short-term loans to commercial banks — at a historic low of 0.5 percent per annum.

Amid growing signs of economic recovery, however, there is speculation that Japan may stop its policy of pegging money market rates at record low levels, with an eventual rise in the discount rate in mind.

On the agreement reached between Japan and the U.S. on the return and transfer of U.S. military facilities in Okinawa, Kubo said it is natural for Japan to shoulder necessary costs for implementing the accord.

Kubo, however, avoided going into specifics on the issue, including how much money will be necessary and whether the spending should be allocated from the ordinary defense budget quota.

Ahead of Clinton's visit to Japan, the two countries officially agreed Monday on the return and transfer of the functions of Futenma air station and 10 other U.S. military facilities in Okinawa Prefecture in a bid to ease the burdens of U.S. bases on residents of the island.

At a separate news conference after a regular cabinet meeting, Shusei Tanaka, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, shared Kubo's view concerning costs for transfer of the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa Prefecture.

"It's only natural that Japan should bear the costs involved although I'm not sure exactly how much the transfer will cost," Tanaka said.

Japan: Prevailing Economic Issues on Summit Agenda Noted

OW1504131196 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 14 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a decision has been made to return in full MCAS Futenma in Okinawa on the eve of the Japan-U.S. summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton on 17 April, all attention is now focused on economic issues.

Japan believes that "Japan-U.S. relations are good," and thinks that even though bilateral negotiations on the controversial insurance issue ended in a stalemate, the United States will not apply strong pressure at the summit meeting.

However, there is still lingering resentment of Japan in the United States owing to the trade deficit issue. The presidential election is also approaching in November. Some government officials are concerned that "the President, who let the prime minister take credit for the Okinawa issue, may launch an offensive on economic issues." (according to a government source)

On 12 April, President Clinton boasted of the achievements of the Japan-U.S. auto accord, as seen in an increase of exports to Japan. However, the U.S. auto industry is not satisfied. Chairman Robert Eaton of Chrysler says: "There has been some progress, but we have a long way to go."

Bob Dole, Senate majority leader, who is the Republican Party's presidential candidate, has also criticized the Clinton Administration's "weak-kneed" foreign trade policy. There is a possibility that depending on economic trends, the Clinton government may extend its "result-oriented" approach to other sectors.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] looks at the Japan-U.S. economic frictions in the past 30 years as a history "mainly of Japanese deregulation measures, such as the revision of the Large Retail Stores Law, under U.S. pressure." (according to a senior MOFA official) However, MOFA has recently come to note a change in the nature of such "frictions" as being characterized by "unreasonable pressure for the benefit of selected companies." (according to the same source)

The United States is focusing on the four sectors of semiconductors, photo films, insurance and air cargo. The Japanese side thinks that the film issue, in particular, symbolizes such a qualitative change.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has to submit its investigation report on the film issue under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Law (on sanctions against unfair trade practices) by 2 July. The present bilateral semiconductor agreement will also expire by the end of July.

Both will come immediately after the Lyon Summit of leaders of the advanced nations in late June. Right now, Japan does not intend to compromise on both issues. However, at last year's Halifax Summit, the Japan-U.S. auto negotiations were the hidden main issue. There is a possibility that the perception gap between Japan and the United States regarding whether "economic negotiations with a political orientation has ended with the auto agreement" (according to a senior Ministry of International Trade and Industry official) may emerge during the summit.

Japan: Joint News Conference on ACSA Conclusion Reported

OW1604051996 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 16 Apr 96

[Joint News Conference by Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, Director-General of the Defense Agency Hideo Usui, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale on the occasion of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement and Conclusion of the Security Consultative Committee Meeting at Capital Tokyu Hotel in Tokyo at 0330-0350 GMT on 15 April 1996; from the "What's New" link of the special Clinton home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

I. Signing Ceremony of the Japan-United States Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

Moderator for the Signing Ceremony of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement: We will begin with the signing ceremony for the agreement concerning reciprocal provision of logistic support and its procedural agreement. Would you please stand up and exchange the signed documents? That concludes the signing ceremony. We will now proceed with the joint press conference.

II. Opening of the Joint Press Conference

Director-General for Press and Public Information Hiroshi Hashimoto: We will begin the joint press conference now. I would like to ask the Japanese and U.S. Cabinet Ministers and Ambassador Mondale to make short comments.

III. Statement by Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda

Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda: With the visit by Secretary Perry to Japan, we have been engaged in the meeting of the Security Consultative Committee (SCC) for the past two days, which has just been concluded, and as you have just seen, we have signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in front of you just now. The SCC has adopted and issued the Interim Report of the Special Action Committee on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa (SACO), which includes the return of Futenma Air Station. I would invite you, please, to refer to the text which is distributed. In it, you will see that the areas and facilities of U.S. forces in Okinawa will be reduced by over 20% in acreage, and this will, substantially I believe, reduce the burden which has been placed on the people of Okinawa. I would also like to mention that this exercise has been done so as to maintain continuity with the ideas behind the U.S.-Japan Security Arrangements. We have also, during our SCC, had preparatory discussion over our security relationship in general, in preparation for the Summit Meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto, which is to take place on 17 April. In the meeting, we have also discussed the joint declaration which will be issued on the occasion of the Presidential Visit. Taken in their entirety, these preparations have substantially prepared for the visit by President Clinton, at least on the security side of the agenda. In the meeting of the SCC this time around, there have been serious and intensive discussions in a cooperative and warm atmosphere, and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all those who were involved on the Japanese side to express my appreciation to Secretary Perry and Ambassador Mondale. I would now invite Secretary Perry to speak.

IV. Statement by Secretary of Defense William Perry of the United States of America

Secretary of Defense William Perry of the United States of America: Thank you very much, Mr. Ikeda. We have just signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, which will allow greater cooperation between U.S. and Japanese forces. This is a small step, but it is a significant step. It will enable our two countries to be more effective partners in the pursuit of peace. It allows logistic support in peacetime. It applies to training, to joint exercises, to peace-keeping operations, and to humanitarian missions. I should emphasize, though, that this agreement does not apply in times of war, and it does not cover weapons. This small but significant step is just one of the many that we have taken in this momentous weekend. Between this, the agreement on Okinawa basing, and the preparation of the security agreement, I believe that the Summit which is coming up between President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto will be the most significant Summit since the end of the Cold War. Thank you.

V. Statement by Director-General of the Defense Agency (Minister of State for Defense) Hideo Usui

Director-General of the Defense Agency (Minister of State for Defense) Hideo Usui: I am very happy to note that, after the long efforts which have been made on both sides, we have been able to conclude the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement. This has been on the agenda for the Defense Agency for years, and I am very happy that we have finally concluded this Agreement. I would like to take this opportunity in particular to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to Secretary Perry, Ambassador Mondale, Deputy Assistant Secretary Campbell, Deputy Assistant Secretary Hubbard, and also those who have been involved from the armed forces — in particular, Lieutenant General Myers, and Major General Pace. I would also extend my appreciation to others who have been energetically involved in this process. I would also express my commitment to make further efforts to bring about the progress and development of the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements.

VI. Statement by Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale of the United States of America

Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale of the United States of America: Over this past year or so, the United States and Japan have undertaken a vigorous and comprehensive effort to reaffirm and strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance in the context of the post-Cold War era. It began with the East Asian Security Statement issued by the Department of Defense; that was then mirrored in Japan by the National Defense Posture, which strongly reaffirmed Japan's view that this alliance was crucial. We converted the tragedy and the outrage of what happened in Okinawa into a bold, comprehensive response that sought to reduce the irritants, the amount of land we use and the general intrusiveness of our presence in Okinawa, while fully sustaining our capabilities and readiness. That has been done. Today we have signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, something that we have wanted to do for some time, and in a few days, our leaders will issue a very strong reaffirmation of the security alliance. This would not have happened, could not have happened, unless both countries genuinely and profoundly believed that this alliance was in their interest. I think that is the good and the solid news coming out of today and these next few days.

VII. Closing of the Joint Press Conference

Director-General for Press and Public Information Hiroshi Hashimoto: I am terribly sorry to announce that we have got to close the press conference due to the Diet Session. Thank you.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda: Thank you very much.

Japan: Shinshinto To Map Out Separate Policy Toward U.S.

OW1604095696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Policy-makers from the major opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) agreed Tuesday [16 April] they will map out the party's own policy toward the United States, party sources said.

Shinshinto executives met earlier in the day to discuss U.S.-Japan defense cooperation and other issues on the agenda of bilateral summit talks between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday.

Hashimoto heads the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest component of the tripartite ruling coalition, which also includes the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger].

The Shinshinto policy-makers concluded the party should focus on "whether there is a need to revise the government's traditional stance ruling out collective self-defense, particularly in the event of an emergency in the Far East," a Shinshinto source said.

Voices are growing louder within the party arguing that it is necessary to consider collective self-defense as an option in bilateral defense cooperation, but there are also legislators who warn against a reinterpretation of the constitution, underlining the need for a unified party line.

Shinshinto is led by Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP member.

A widely held notion is that Japan's pacifist postwar constitution does not allow for collective self-defense.

The policy-makers also expressed concerns that Clinton's three-day state visit will boost Hashimoto's political profile and accused the government of having bypassed the Diet and local municipalities in striking a deal with the U.S. on the relocation of U.S. military facilities from the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa to other parts of Japan.

Japan: PM Endorses Military Cooperation, Base Relocation

OW1604043996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — The cabinet of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto endorsed Tuesday [16 April] a plan to promote a joint study with the United States on bilateral military cooperation in the event of emergency in the northeast Asian region, government officials said.

The formal go-ahead at a cabinet meeting followed a bilateral agreement to reduce more than one-fifth of the land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa Prefecture.

The cabinet also endorsed a policy of considering measures from legal and cost perspectives for carrying out the prompt return of land for some U.S. bases in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost island prefecture, the officials said.

A special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa announced its interim report Monday that includes a call for the return of the Futenma base to local landowners within five to seven years.

Hashimoto told the cabinet meeting that the bilateral accord is the answer to strong demands from Okinawa residents in accordance with the Japan-U.S. security treaty's purpose of securing peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, the officials said.

Hashimoto also ordered cabinet ministers to work out the various steps necessary to enact the accord, such as selection of new sites for U.S. base functions to be relocated and talks with landowners under a new task force to be led by Teijiro Furukawa, deputy chief cabinet secretary.

Asked about the costs of relocating U.S. base facilities in Okinawa Prefecture, Hashimoto told reporters that the government needs to take special financial measures for the purpose.

"It is impossible within the present framework of the defense budget (to finance the base relocation)," Hashimoto said. "The character of the budget is different and the relocation expenses will be a large amount of money."

The special bilateral committee's interim report unveiled a set of measures to "reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa" in response to local residents' calls for reducing the large U.S. military presence in Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo.

The report was the result of six-months work by the special panel and was adopted at Monday's meeting of top Japanese and U.S. officials in charge of foreign and defense affairs.

The reversion of the Futenma air station has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to realign, consolidate and scale down U.S. military facilities and sites in Okinawa Prefecture ahead of U.S. President Bill Clinton's three-day state visit to Japan starting Tuesday.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, although the island prefecture makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

Japan: Hatoyama: Defense Budget Not To Cover Relocations

OW1604100596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — The cost of the relocation of several U.S. military bases and installations from Okinawa to other parts of Japan will have to be covered from funds other than the defense budget, a New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] leader said Tuesday [16 April].

"Japan will shoulder those costs and I understand that they will be placed outside the defense budget framework," Yukio Hatoyama told a news conference.

Hatoyama is secretary general of the party, one of the three members of the ruling coalition together with the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party.

Japan and the United States on Monday formally agreed to strive to reduce by about one-fifth the land occupied by U.S. military bases in the southernmost prefecture of Okinawa, with the return of Futenma Air Station in the city of Ginowan as the main piece of real estate to be returned.

Asked why Japan is to assume sole fiscal responsibility for the relocation plan, Hatoyama argued that the U.S. military bases contribute to peace and stability in the Far East, including Japan.

"Rather than a diplomatic problem, this is a domestic problem due to the overconcentration of military bases in Okinawa," Hatoyama said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's cabinet endorsed Tuesday a plan to promote a joint study with the U.S. on bilateral military cooperation in the event of emergency in the northeast Asian region.

Japan: Officials: Relocation May Top One Trillion Yen

*OW1604135496 Tokyo KYODO in English
1309 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Japan will have to pay nearly 1 trillion yen for the relocation of 11 U.S. military installations in Okinawa Prefecture which the United States has agreed to return to Japan completely or in part, coalition officials said Tuesday [16 April].

The estimate, made by the Defense Agency, was forwarded to the coalition as the government faces the issue of how to pay for the relocation of the U.S. facilities, the officials said.

In a related development, the ruling coalition set up a working group on the issue and Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) floated the idea of setting aside expenditures outside defense spending, the officials said.

The LDP made the proposal on the grounds that defense spending could exceed 1 percent of Gross National Product — once considered a binding target — if expenses needed to close and relocate the U.S. facilities are included in defense spending, they said.

New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] agreed with the LDP proposal, but the other coalition partner, the Social Democratic Party, demanded details of related expenditures be studied.

Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP's police research affairs council, told reporters Tuesday that most of the necessary costs will be earmarked outside defense outlays.

Hashimoto has said the financial cost is too big to be handled within the current framework of defense spending.

The U.S. agreed Monday to return to Japan nearly 20 percent of the land occupied by U.S. forces in Japan's southernmost island prefecture.

Japan: New Legislation To Support U.S. Forces in Emergency

OW1504090596 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Evening Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] At the 11 April meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party's Security Research Commission (chaired by former Defense Agency [DA] Director General Tsutomu Kawara), Masahiro Akiyama, head of the DA's Defense Policy Bureau, reported the agency's view concerning Japan's logistic support for the U.S. military operations in case of emergency in the Far East. He said: "New legislation would be necessary to enable Japan to support the U.S. forces. We hope to reach an early conclusion." In this way, he disclosed that the DA had begun a full-scale study on military cooperation with the U.S. forces in the event of emergencies.

Akiyama cited the provision of supply goods and rental of goods as possible Japanese support for the U.S. military, claiming that these things were permissible under the Constitution unless they were considered part of the U.S. military's use of force.

Japan To List Facilities for U.S. Forces During Emergencies

OW1504050996 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 13 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been decided that Japan will provide additional facilities in the form of private airports and port facilities to the U.S. military in cases of emergency, such as disputes on the Korean peninsula. Based on this decision, the government has begun studying a plan to specify airports and harbors in concrete terms in a "program of joint measures" to be worked out by Japan and the United States in future. As part of the measures to strengthen defense cooperation in cases of emergency in the Far East, the government's plan aims at facilitating emergency measures by making a positive commitment to the U.S side at places where U.S. reinforcement units or supplies to be dispatched to Japan can be landed or received. It also aims at creating conditions for the future reduction of bases on Okinawa, including the Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma. The Japanese and U.S. Governments have reached an accord on returning MCAS Futenma within five to seven years.

In the joint statement on security to be announced during the Japan-U.S. summit talks on 17 April, both governments will confirm that the defense cooperation system will be strengthened in cases of emergency. And then, a "special committee on the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation" (as tentatively named) will be set up as a new consultative organ. The new organ will start working out a "program of joint measures," in which details about actual joint operations to be taken by the U.S. Forces and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan will be stipulated.

Japan: U.S. Intent To Redifine Security Treaty Analyzed

OW1504140496 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 14 Apr 96 p 1

[Second in series of articles entitled "Study on Security and Okinawa": U.S. Trying to Reinforce Security Treaty through Redefinition; by Hiroshi Sekiguchi, TOKYO SHIMBUN U.S. general bureau reporter]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Japan-U.S. security treaty has been playing an extremely important role in ensuring security in Japan, the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. However, why does not Japan understand it correctly?" This is a shared question harbored by not only by Clinton but also former U.S. administrations.

Prior to Clinton's official Japan visit, Defense Secretary William Perry will attend the Japan-U.S. security talks to discus Okinawa base problems in Tokyo. His security theory is clear and simple. "The U.S. forces deployed in the Asia-Pacific region provide oxygen to the engines of local economic development. The security umbrella the United States spreads brought unprecedented prosperity in East Asia. Without this umbrella, Japan will be forced to look for another way to ensure its peace and prosperity."

The security-as-oxygen argument was promoted by Joseph Nye, former U.S. assistant defense secretary and incumbent Harvard University professor who formulated the "East Asia security report" for the Clinton Administration. He maintained that: "No one pays attention to oxygen until it starts running low. However, once we run out of it, we realize how important it was." The implication of his words is by no means considered non-essential.

Even though the threats from the former Soviet Union evaporated and "the post-Cold War security philosophy" emerged, the United States would say "it would not make any changes in the effectiveness of the security framework." Behind this logic is a U.S. frustration with a Japan who "starts forgetting a 'blessing' of bilateral security framework after the Cold War."

A review and a redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security treaty and security arrangements have been a concern for the two countries since last spring. However, the rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl completely changed the nature of the security discussion.

This unfortunate incident, which was described as "a conflict between the global strategy and a personal tragedy" (U.S. daily CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR), suddenly brought the Okinawa base problem up to the security discussion.

Although the Clinton administration repeatedly expressed apologies to this "personal tragedy," the base problem at the same time provoked Okinawa's resentment against both the Japanese and the U.S. Governments. President Clinton might have been able to escape from the impact of the incident if he had visited Japan last November as planned.

Then, the Taiwan Strait crisis took place and the situation in the Korean peninsula worsened. These incidents provided the United States a reasonable ground for maintaining that "the redefinition of the security arrangements should be the reinforcement of the security framework." What concerns the United States, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is regional instability.

James Lilley, former U.S. Ambassador to China, noted that "the Taiwan Strait crisis will promote the enhancement, modernization, and the improvement of the Japan-U.S. security framework." Behind the swift arrangement of the summit between Clinton and ROK President Kim Yong-sam on the Cheju Island is the worsening situation in the Korean peninsula.

The Clinton Administration's East Asia strategy report says "the forward deployment of 100,000 U.S. troops is essential to ensure stability in East Asia." It also stresses that "the United States must make efforts to reinforce its ties with Japan which functions as the basic mechanism to promote regional and global peace."

With the November presidential election approaching, President Clinton intends to publicize his Japan visit as results of his diplomacy. According to Japan-U.S. sources, the president is planning to deliver a speech from the U.S. Seventh Fleet carrier Independence at the Yokosuka Base to emphasize the role of the U.S. forces for regional stability.

As for the United States, base reorganization, consolidation, and reduction should be limited so that the U.S. forces stationed in Japan, including Okinawa, can maintain the current strength. In this regard, the perception gap is too great between the Clinton Administration and Okinawa concerning the base problems.

Japan: Hashimoto 'Leadership' Noted in Futenma Accord

OW1504121696 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 13 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed article: "'Futenma' Accord — 'Premier's Leadership' for Revitalizing Administration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A sudden announcement on the Japan-U.S. agreement on a complete return of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma became an effective political performance as it was quite unexpected. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto successfully exhibited "the prime minister's leadership," and he wants to use this achievement to revitalize his administration. On the other hand, the great concession was a well-laid scheme for U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Hashimoto has been positively working on the Futenma issue, and the agreement will become an effective tool for successfully carry out the upcoming Japan-U.S. summit talks. At the same time, he intends to use the achievement to boost the declining popularity of his administration. Although Hashimoto looked like a lame-duck in Diet debates on liquidation of the failed housing-loan companies (jusen), he vividly demonstrated unusual "leadership of the prime minister" in his favorite diplomatic negotiations. Strengthening his links with the Clinton Administration will also become a positive factor for his Administration.

"I will make the announcement this evening." Hashimoto disclosed the agreement on the return of MCAS Futenma to Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui during the noon recess of the 12 April session of the House of Councilors Budget Committee. Usui was very surprised because he thought it was impossible from the first place. Until that time, Usui just hoped to "fully deal with the Futenma issue if it is brought up as a future topic during the Clinton visit." Hashimoto's notification was surprise news for Defense Agency bureaucrats too.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said "I did not notice the change in the mood of the bilateral negotiations until early this week (the week 8-14 April)." He was instructed to attend the meeting between Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, which was held at the prime minister's office, and he was almost in a panic when he learned that the United States was going to return Futenma.

The Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency could not even imagine the agreement at all because the U.S. Government had been consistently showing negative attitudes regarding any chances to return Futenma. However, it was not a sudden decision for the United States, and the policy change seemingly began about a month ago.

Judging from bureaucrats' responses, Hashimoto did not adopt Japanese politicians' usual tactics to walk on the road paved by bureaucrats. Apparently, the decision on the Futenma accord was made at the initiative of the prime minister through a series of Hashimoto-Mondale meetings held five times from 27 March to 12 April.

"I am carrying on this negotiation seriously and frantically." When Hashimoto told reporters on the morning of 12 April, he was already certain about the achievement. When the Diet was in confusion over the jusen issue, Hashimoto did not take the initiative to break the deadlock despite public criticism of "lack of leadership." As Hashimoto is not quite skillful on Diet management and coordination of coalition parties, he completely entrusted the adjustment work to Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, and devoted himself to his own expertise.

In addition to the lower house approval of the fiscal 1996 budget bill, Hashimoto realized the unexpected achievement in the Okinawa issue. On these grounds, he intends to stop the chronic decline in support for his administration to build a long-life government. When Hashimoto closed his statement at the joint news conference with Ambassador Mondale on the evening of 12 April, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kajiyama jumped up from his chair and greeted him with applause. Kajiyama looked excited about with overcoming the government crisis in conjunction with Hashimoto.

The Clinton Administration offered great support for the weakening administration of Hashimoto. Strengthened links with the United States will positively influence various issues, including domestic affairs, which Hashimoto is now working on. In return, Clinton is expected to demand strongly Japan's concession on economic issues, including the third-sector insurance issue.

Nevertheless, at the 12 April news conference, Hashimoto looked quite confident of success of the upcoming summit talks with Clinton, saying: "If you look our faces, you will probably know the two countries are not in the same tense situation as in the auto talks last year."

Japan: Assembly, Municipal Government Cooperate on Futenma

OW1504143896 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO
in Japanese (Evening Edition) 15 Apr 96 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Ginowan — The Ginowan municipal government convened an extraordinary meeting beginning at 1000 hours on 15 April. Ginowan Mayor Seiken Tobaru, the three top officials of the municipal government, and department directors were joined by municipal assembly chairman Masahito Isa and officials in charge of military base affairs to discuss measures needed to respond to the return of MCAS [Marine Corps Air Station] Futenma.

Following a briefing by the mayor, Isa indicated his intention to cooperate with the municipal government in regard to the return of the Futenma base, saying: "It is precisely now that there is importance in uniting our efforts."

Zenichi Ganeko, director of the municipal military base affairs office, said: "I cannot make any comments about Camp Zukeran because nothing has been clarified about which sites will be returned or the total area of the land to be returned. As far as MCAS Futenma is concerned, however, we intend to promptly work out plans for diverting returned land to other uses. Some of the important tasks that we will now have to list include diplomatic activity, such as filing requests with the central and prefectural governments."

Japan: Article Explains 'Return' of MCAS Futenma

OW1504143196 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO (Morning Edition) in Japanese 14 Apr 96 p 2

[By reporter Hiromori Maedomari of the RYUKYU SHIMPO Political-Economic Affairs Department]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 12 April, an agreement was reached suddenly between Japan and the United States to return the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma, which would have been the biggest focal point of discussions at Japan-U.S. summit talks. Since the incident in which U.S. soldiers raped a schoolgirl last year, Okinawa has been demanding, as the top item of its demand list, "return of Futenma." However, the Japanese Government, with the Defense Agency [DA] and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] as central players, has consistently taken a negative stance on the return of the base. But the situation changed all of a sudden, and agreement was reached on returning MCAS Futenma. We have examined behind-the-scenes defensive and offensive maneuvers during negotiations between the prefectural government and the central government, between the Prime Minister's Official Residence and top U.S. Government officials, and among members of the government and the ruling parties.

It was 1000 hours [Japan time] on 12 April. Vice Governor Masanori Yoshimoto, who had just come out of the governor's executive office, was surrounded by a group of reporters. On this day, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN had reported from Washington on "The Return of Futenma Base in Five Years." Reporters rushed to the governor's office to confirm the report.

"Why are you so surprised? From the very beginning, the return of Futenma base was a prescribed policy. Do you not remember newspapers have been reporting several times since last year about the return of Futenma?" Vice Governor Yoshimoto's response was clear. However, he revealed his view of the report, saying: "The timing of the report is a bit too early."

At a news conference held after a morning cabinet meeting on the same day, DA Director General Usui placed a check on the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN report, saying: "The Futenma airfield belongs to the Marine Corps, which is the nucleus of the U.S. military's forward deployment. (Its return) will be extremely difficult." Just about that time, Prime Minister Hashimoto was explaining to a group of reporters what was going on with the negotiations, saying: "We are negotiating frantically with the U.S. side."

On the afternoon of the same day, the prefectural government was informed that a change had been made so that the return of Futenma base would become part of the "prescribed policy." A central government source informed the prefectural government of the "good news" shortly after 1500, when eight economic organizations in Okinawa made proposals to the governor regarding the prefectural government's concept of forming an international city and action program on return of military bases.

Why was the decision to return MCAS Futenma made? A government source analyzes it as follows: "Prime Minister Hashimoto incorporated three pillars in a public pledge he made when he formed his cabinet. One of them was pump-priming measures, the second was the jusen issue, and the third was Okinawa base issues. He announced that his administration pledged to settle the three issues. However, the government's efforts to work out economic measures has been hindered because settlement of the jusen issue has been forestalled and implementation of the new budget is far behind schedule. The Diet session is in chaos over the jusen issue, and some people are even talking about the possibility of dissolving the Diet. Under such circumstances, the only accomplishment that Prime Minister Hashimoto would be able to claim is settlement of Okinawa base issues."

However, with Okinawa hardening its stance due to the September rape of a schoolgirl by U.S. soldiers, the governor refused to go through the procedures needed for forced use of land to renew military land leases. The lease for a plot of land at the Sobe Communications Facility expired in April, and the Japanese Government was forced to "illegally occupy" private property.

"About 3,000 land leases will expire in May of next year. The government will be in more serious trouble, unless it deals with the issue seriously." Governor Ota, during a dinner meeting with Prime Minister Hashimoto on 22 March in Tokyo, called again on the government to "deal sincerely" with the lease issue. The governor gave a "warning," saying: "Depending on how the government deals with the issue, several U.S. military bases, including Kadena Air Base, will become the second and third Sobe Communications Facility (a part of which is under illegal occupation)."

A concerned source tipped this writer, saying: "Actually, Prime Minister Hashimoto promised that day that the Futenma base would be returned." Being at a dinner and having had a few drinks, Prime Minister Hashimoto openly explained how he negotiated with the U.S. Government on the return of Futenma base, stressing: "As a prime minister, I intend to make every effort toward its realization." Noting the serious expression on the prime minister's face, top prefectural government officials who accompanied Ota felt assured of the "return" of Futenma.

One senior DA official did not take the 12 April NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN report on "the return of Futenma" seriously, saying, "Not again." He dismissed the report as just another "report on the return of military bases," that keeps appearing and disappearing. However, he reportedly "could not believe what he saw" when he watched on television the joint news conference by Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale later that evening. Showing his indignation, the senior DA official confided: "He bypassed us. The prime minister made the decision all by himself."

On the afternoon of the same day, a senior MOFA official learned of the "return" of Futenma base. He grumbled: "It was done completely behind the scenes, under the initiative of the Prime Minister's Official Residence."

Behind the agreement on the return of Futenma base, Prime Minister Hashimoto made concessions to the United States on a number of points. Among these is that Japan and the United States would "confirm within the joint statement on redefinition of the security arrangement a review of the guidelines on Japanese-U.S. defense cooperation so that in an emergency, U.S. forces can freely use Japanese airports and harbor facilities." This means that "in place of giving up Futenma base, U.S. forces would secure the right to use not only Self-Defense Forces [SDF] bases, but also all commercial airports and harbors, in contingencies" (according to a senior DA official). Of course, this would also apply to Naha Airport.

A concerned source said: "It appears that the prime minister managed to sway some Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] members with vested interests in national defense affairs by setting up a venue in which to thoroughly discuss the issue of the right of collective self-defense — something they have been seeking for a long time." Bringing the debate out into the open on the "right of collective self-defense," which is banned by the Constitution, could open the way to overseas deployment of the SDF.

While Okinawa is getting carried away with news of "the return of Futenma," big waves caused by the redefinition of the security arrangement are beginning to erode breakwaters set up by the Constitution.

Japan: Governor Ota To Meet Hashimoto Over U.S. Base Cuts

OW1604054496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 16 KYODO — Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota will meet Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Wednesday [17 April] to discuss the recently announced plan to reduce U.S. bases in Okinawa, officials of the Okinawa Prefectural Government said Tuesday.

Ota is expected to urge Hashimoto to enact special legislation on the future use of the site of the Futenma air base, which will be returned to Japan under the program, prefectural government sources said.

They said Ota will also thank Hashimoto for his initiative in reaching an agreement with the United States on the issue.

Japan and the U.S. announced Monday a plan to cut by more than one-fifth the land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa Prefecture, with the return of the Futenma airfield within five to seven years as its centerpiece.

Ota will ask Hashimoto to take steps to ensure that the new military facilities to be built under the program will not pose any new disturbance to local residents, the sources said.

They said the governor will also tell Hashimoto that he will watch closely the negotiations between Japan and the U.S. over the issue until the final report of a special bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa is released in November.

Japan: Ministry Releases 'Text' of SACO Interim Report

OW1604050596 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 16 Apr 96

[Full text of the interim report of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) on base reduction by Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda, Director-General of the Defense Agency Hideo Usui, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale on 15 April 1996; from the "What's New" link of the special Clinton home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) was established in November, 1995 by the Governments of Japan and the United States. The two Governments launched the SACO process to reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa and thereby strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance.

The mandate and guidelines for the SACO process were agreed upon by the Government of Japan and the U.S. Government at the outset of the joint endeavor. Both sides agreed that the SACO would develop recommendations for the Security Consultative Committee (SCC) on ways to consolidate, realign and reduce U.S. facilities and areas, and adjust operational procedures of U.S. forces in Okinawa consistent with their respective obligations under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and other related agreements. The work of the SACO is scheduled to conclude after one year.

The SACO, working with the Joint Committee, has conducted a series of intensive and thorough discussions. As a result of these discussions, the SACO and the Joint Committee earlier announced a number of concrete steps to address Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) related issues such as noise reduction initiatives and adjustments to operational procedures.

Today, at the SCC, Minister Ikeda, Minister Usui, Secretary Perry and Ambassador Mondale agreed to several significant initiatives on the basis of the discussions conducted thus far at the SACO. These measures, when implemented, will reduce the impact of the activities of U.S. forces on communities in Okinawa, while fully maintaining the capabilities and readiness of US forces in Japan. The total acreage of U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by approximately 20 percent.

The SCC has emphasized the importance of implementing these measures in a timely manner without delay, and has instructed the SACO to complete and recommend plans with concrete implementation scheduled by November 1996. In order to minimize the impact of the activities of U.S. forces on Okinawa, the Governments of Japan and the United States will cooperate to implement the following:

Return Land:

— Return Futenma Air Station. Return Futenma Air Station within the next five to seven years, after adequate replacement facilities are completed. The airfield's critical military functions and capabilities will be maintained through relocations of facilities. This will require construction of a heliport on other U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa; development of additional facilities at Kadena Air Base; transfer of KC-130 aircraft to Iwakuni Air Base (see Implementation of Noise Reduction Initiatives); and a joint U.S.-Japan study on emergency use of facilities in the event of a crisis.

— Return Major Portion of Northern Training Area while ensuring access to the ocean.
— Release U.S. joint use of Aha Training Area (land).
— Return Gimbaru Training Area. Relocate facilities to other U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa.
— Return Sobe Communications Site. Return Sobe Communications Site once a new site is constructed at Camp Hansen (Central Training Area) in the next five years.
— Return Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield. Relocate parachute drop training.
— Return Most of Camp Kuwae [Lester]. Relocate the Naval Hospital and other facilities there to other U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa.
— Return Senaha Communications Station. Relocate the Senaha Communications Stations and associated facilities to Torii Station and other U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa, allowing the release of land.
— Return Portions of Makiminato Service Area. Return land adjacent to Route 58.
— Return land as a result of housing consolidation. Develop a joint plan to consolidate U.S. housing areas in Okinawa which will allow for the return of a significant portion of land in older housing areas including Camp Kuwae (Lester) and Camp Zukeran (Foster).
— Accelerate return of Naha Port. Build a new port at Urasoe to allow for the return of Naha Port.

Adjust Training and Operational Procedures:

— Terminate artillery live-firing training over Highway 104, with the exception of artillery firing required in the event of a crisis. Relocate 155mm artillery live-fire training to the mainland of Japan.

— Relocate parachute drop training to Iejima.
— Terminate conditioning hikes on public roads in Okinawa.

Implement Noise Reduction Initiatives:

— Implement agreements on aircraft noise abatement countermeasures at Kadena Air Base and Futenma Air Station announced by the Joint Committee.

— Transfer KC-130 Hercules aircraft, relocate their supporting facilities, and transfer AV-8 Harrier aircraft. Transfer KC-130 aircraft currently based at Futenma Air Station and relocate their supporting facilities to Iwakuni Air Base in conjunction with the transfer of a similar number of Harrier aircraft to the United States.
— Relocate Navy P-3 operations and supporting facilities at Kadena Air Base from the Navy ramp to the other side of the major runways, and move MC-130 operations from the Navy ramp.
— Build new noise reduction baffles at Kadena Air Base.
— Limit night flight training operations at Futenma Air Station.

Improve Status of Forces Agreement Procedures:

— Establish new procedures to provide timely information on U.S. military aircraft accidents.

— Seek greater public exposure of Joint Committee agreements.
— Review and publicize guidelines for access to U.S. facilities and areas.

— Implement agreement on measures concerning markings on U.S. forces official vehicles.
— Expand education programs for voluntary automobile insurance.
— Review and publicize quarantine procedures.
— Publicize guidelines on removing expended munitions at Camp Hansen.

The two sides agreed to continue to study additional issues, including U.S. recreational facilities.

Japan: SACO Report Notes Senaha Relocation 'Under Study'

OW1404103496 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO (Morning Edition) in Japanese 14 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — As of 13 April, the Japanese and U.S. Governments have firmed up an interim report of the "Special Action Committee on Okinawa" (SACO) on the streamlining, consolidation, and reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa. The report is expected to incorporate the return of about 10 facilities, including Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which it has been agreed to be returned in five to seven years, and the northern training area, the largest U.S. military-occupied area in Japan. The report is to be officially approved at a Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (two-plus-two meeting) session on 15 April. Although the return of all the land used for the Sobe communications facility, wherein a plot has been illegally occupied by the government, will also be agreed on at the meeting, the two governments have firmed up a plan to relocate the Sobe communications facility to Camp Hansen.

The total area to be returned, which will be agreed on at the meeting, is expected to exceed the total area returned (4,300 hectares) after Okinawa's reversion to Japan. Of the area to be returned, the northern training area (7,800 hectares) accounts for the largest part. In the interim report, what has to be studied in the process of returning each facility until the final report is compiled in November will be noted.

As for the Sobe communications facility, relocation of its antennas to an existing facility was decided at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee session held last May, in which the return of the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield was agreed on. However, this time, the two governments will agree to return all the land used for the Sobe communications facility.

Although the Iejima Auxiliary Airfield has been listed as a candidate site for relocation of the Sobe communications facility, a top leader of the ruling parties has made it clear that "a decision has been made to relocate it to Camp Hansen." However, it cannot be clearly said that the interim report will specify the site for relocating the Sobe communications facility.

Moreover, the conditional return of the Ginbaru training area — wherein nighttime helicopter exercises are conducted and the Kin Town residents have been strongly demanding the cancellation of the exercises — and the Senaha communications site [SCS] has been under coordination. Relocating the SCS to the Torii Communications Station in the village of Yomitan is under study.

As for Camps Zukeran and Kuwae, the two governments are moving ahead on the partial return by building high-rise housing for servicemen. Meanwhile, the Makiminato Depot area is also listed as subject to the partial return. The governments are also moving on the return of other facilities, including the Awase communications site.

On the issue of returning the Naha Military Port and Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield, which the two governments have already agreed to return with conditions for relocation, the interim report will specify that further efforts will be made to settle the issue as early as possible.

With regard to the Yomitan airfield, restudy is being made on possible relocation to the Iejima Auxiliary Airfield after Ginoza Village residents voiced opposition to relocating the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield to Camp Hansen, despite the fact that the return of the Yomitan airfield was agreed to on condition that parachute exercises will be conducted on Camp Hansen.

Japan: Okinawa Governor on Relocation of Base Facilities

OW1604082296 Naha OKINAWA TIMES (Morning Edition) in Japanese 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Report on news conference by Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota with unidentified correspondent at the prefectural government building on 15 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Regarding the issue of base relocations within the prefecture, local residents are expressing their opposition. How are you going to deal with this issue?

[Ota] It is the central government's responsibility to deal with municipalities that will be accepting the facilities. Prefectural governments also need to deal with this issue squarely because the landowners feel uneasy about it. Another reason is that utilization of the base land after it is returned to landowners and other issues are related to the concept of building international cities.

[Correspondent] It appears that you will meet with the prime minister and the U.S. President.

[Ota] I would like to thank them candidly. They did their best while taking into consideration the needs of Okinawa. However, the prefecture has been repeatedly calling for the return of the bases without conditions for their relocation. In this regard, I would like to make a separate request and ask the government to make sure that relocation will have no negative impacts on the lives of residents.

[Correspondent] The security treaty will be fortified if the base functions are left intact.

[Ota] We cannot say anything under the current circumstances. I am sure that the people, if they look at what we have been calling for, will understand our position.

[Correspondent] Can you call the interim report a visible result?

[Ota] A course of settlement for major facilities has been shown so that it looks like a visible result. We can say it is a report in which our demands have been incorporated. However, we do not know yet if it will be implemented as scheduled. We need more time to tell if it is a visible result.

[Correspondent] You will be facing the issue of public notification procedures on extending the enforced use of land for military purposes in June and July.

[Ota] The issue submitted to the Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee is still unsettled. The issue submitted to the court is also unsolved. Therefore, I cannot say anything at this stage or until I get a clear view of how these issues will be settled.

[Correspondent] Did you officially accept the invitation to the reception?

[Ota] I would like to thank the prime minister, top government officials, Ambassador Mondale, and other officials for the fact that both governments gave considerations to the voices of the Okinawan people.

[Correspondent] How about Yamaguchi Prefecture and Iwakuni City?

[Ota] I have been saying strongly that I do not want to give our pains to other people. It gives me pain to think of it.

[Correspondent] Since some people are against the interim report, it seems that the prefectural people will be divided into two.

[Ota] This is an issue that breaks my heart most. The prefectural government has been putting its whole heart and soul into this issue. Did we have other alternatives? We have been doing our best to protect the security and lives of the prefectural people.

[Correspondent] Is it thinkable to reject the interim report which contains conditions of relocating the bases?

[Ota] We are not in the situation of saying that. We have no choice but make a comprehensive judgment and go along with things that are beneficial to the majority.

Japan: Kadena Assembly Passes Resolution Against Base Plan

OW1604050696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 16 KYODO — The town assembly of Kadena, Okinawa Prefecture, passed a resolution Tuesday [16 April] against the proposed transfer of some functions of the U.S. Futenma air station to a larger base there.

The resolution, passed unanimously in an extraordinary assembly session, is the latest manifestation of local communities' strong opposition to having U.S. military facilities relocated to their areas.

Japan and the United States announced Monday a program to curtail by about one-fifth the area of land occupied by U.S. military bases in Okinawa, with the return of the Futenma airfield within five to seven years as its centerpiece.

Under the program, part of the functions of the airfield will be shifted to the Kadena base.

The chairman of the Kadena assembly and other officials of the town plan to visit the prefectural government and the Defense Facilities Administration Agency's Naha office Friday afternoon with petitions against the relocation.

The assemblies of two nearby municipalities — the city of Okinawa and the town of Hokutan — also held emergency committee meetings on the issue.

The Hokutan committee agreed to convene an emergency assembly session Thursday and adopt a statement opposing the relocation plan.

Japan: U.S. Okinawa Training Area To Become National Park

*OW1504131596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1150 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Environment Agency Chief Sukio Iwatare said Monday [15 April] the government will study the possibility of designating as a national park a U.S. military training area in Okinawa Prefecture to be returned to Japan.

"From a viewpoint of biological diversity, it is worth designation for the world's heritage. We want to study (the area's ecosystem) as soon as possible so as to consider designating it as national park," Iwatare told a press conference.

Iwatare said Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto agreed with this.

Japan and the United States formally agreed Monday on the return of more than half of the 780-hectare U.S military's Northern Training Area in the southwestern Japanese prefecture.

The area is rich in animal and plant life and home to endangered species and about 320 of Japan's 665 species of birds can be observed there.

Japan: U.S. Carrier Reportedly Operated Outside Far East

*OW1204133096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1315 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yokosuka, Japan, April 12 KYODO — The U.S. aircraft carrier Independence based at Yokosuka base in Japan conducted nearly 70 percent of its operations from 1992 to 1994 outside the Far East, a region defined by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, a civic group said Friday [12 April].

The Japanese antinuclear civic group headed by Hiromichi Umebayashi, 58, came up with the finding based on operational records of the aircraft carrier in U.S. military materials that have been made public due to the U.S. Open Intelligence Law.

The 1,000 pages of documents, made up mostly of reports submitted by the commander of the 80,643-ton Independence to the U.S. Navy, marks the first occasion that such detailed materials about the ship have been revealed.

The records show that during the 520 days when the Independence sailed for specific military operations from 1992 to 1994, 361 days were spent in seas outside the Far East compared with 144 days for operations in the Far East and 15 days for test voyages.

During the three years, the Independence spent its longest operational period, 120 days, in the Persian Gulf to engage in supporting military maneuvers after the Gulf War.

In July 1994, the aircraft carrier left from and returned to the yokosuka base five times to carry out emergency operations for a monthlong period after the death of North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

Umebayashi said the documents show that the aircraft carrier operated "extravagantly outside" of the Far East region although the bilateral security treaty allows the U.S. military to use Japanese facilities for the purpose of preserving peace in Japan and the Far East.

Japan Notes Concern About Rising Tensions in Lebanon

*OW1604081096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0709 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Japan on Tuesday [16 April] expressed concern about rising tensions in Lebanon and urged utmost efforts by the parties concerned not to derail the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said in a statement that Tokyo sees as "regrettable" the recent situation in which many civilians have been killed and injured, and many others made homeless.

Tensions in Lebanon have been escalating for the past several days due to clashes between the Israeli military and the Shiite muslim guerrilla group Hizballah.

Japan: Hashimoto Expresses Support for Korean Peninsula Talks

*OW1604052396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0511 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed support Tuesday [16 April] for proposed four-way talks between North and South Korea together with China and the United States on achieving peace on the Korean peninsula.

In a statement, Hashimoto said Japan supports the proposal, calling it an "initiative that will be very significant for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

Japan hopes that such talks will ease tensions and foster good relations between North and South Korea, and that a lasting peace agreement will replace the current truce accord, the premier said.

But Hashimoto also urged North Korea to abide by the current truce pact before such a peace accord is achieved, and not to take action which could harm stability on the peninsula.

The premier said he wants to exchange opinions on the Korean situation with U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is due to arrive in Japan later in the day for a three-day state visit.

As well as urging North Korea to take part in the talks, Hashimoto added he will also keep in close contact with South Korea and the United States on the issue.

During their summit meeting on Cheju Island on Tuesday, Clinton and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam agreed on the four-party formula for the proposed talks, in order to help resume inter-Korean dialogue for a permanent peace agreement on the divided peninsula.

Japan: DPRK Mission Asks SDP To Invite WPK 'To Visit'

OW1504033896 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 12 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 11 April, a visiting delegation of the DPRK's Korea-Japan Friendship Association (including Kang Chong-hun, deputy director of a department under the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee) held talks with Keiko Chiba, Social Democratic Party [SDP] vice chairman and director general of the party's International Bureau, and other SDP members at their office at the House of Councillors. Kang requested that the SDP invite senior WPK Central Committee officials to Japan. He said: "It would be appreciated if the SDP, for its part, invites senior WPK Central Committee officials to visit Japan as early as this month."

Japan: MOFA Conference on ROK, DPRK Ties; Security Issues

OW1504124596 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 12 Apr 96

[News conference by Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi with unidentified reporters on 12 April; place not given; from the "What's New!" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Topics of Discussion]

I. Introduction to the press conference
II. Japan-Republic of Korea relations and arrangements for the resumption of normalization talks with North Korea
III. The policy of Japan on not exercising the right of collective self defense
IV. Matters concerning the 2'2 Meeting of the Japan-United States Security Consultative Committee
V. Matters relating to preliminary contacts with North Korea

I. Introduction to the press conference

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I do not have any announcements today, but will be delighted to respond to any questions that you might have.

II. Japan-Republic of Korea Relations and Arrangements for the Resumption of Normalization Talks With North Korea

Q: Do you have any comment on the results of the elections in the Republic of Korea yesterday? The follow-up question to that would be, there have been lots of reports in the Japanese press saying that after the elections in the Republic of Korea are over, the process of normalization talks between North Korea and Japan would speed up. Would you like to comment on that?

A: To answer your first question, it is our policy not to comment on the domestic affairs of other countries, so I will not comment directly on the elections held in the Republic of Korea yesterday. I would just like to say that we hope that we will be able to further enhance our ties of friendship and cooperation with the Republic of Korea. We value our ties with the Republic of Korea. We share common values and common interests, and we intend to do our very best to further strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

With respect to your second question, you said there was a lot of speculation in the Japanese press. And, I agree with you that there is a lot of speculation — that is what it is. I think you are well aware of Japan's policy regarding normalization talks with North Korea. Would you like me to repeat it?

Q: No. The reason I asked you about the normalization talks is because of a briefing that Press Secretary Hashimoto had last Friday. He said, "when we engage in normalization talks with North Korea, the Japanese Government closely communicates with the Republic of Korea. At same time, we make our positions clear to the North Korean delegation," and so on. He makes his position clear to the North Korean delegation to be sure that these talks would benefit peace in the region. Wouldn't that mean that he is admitting that there is a talk going on between North Korea and Japan?

A: As we have said at numerous occasions in the past, we have been having preliminary contacts with North Korea to discuss arrangements for the resumption of normalization talks. Although we cannot comment on the specifics of these contacts, our position on normalization talks with North Korea is as follows.

I will repeat it for the sake of accuracy. We are approaching this matter in the following way. We will be looking at two aspects. One aspect is normalizing the anomalous state of affairs that has existed between Japan and North Korea since the second world war. The other aspect is contributing to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We will be doing these things while maintaining close contact with the Republic of Korea. I think Press Secretary and Director-General for Press and Public Relations Hiroshi Hashimoto was referring to that.

Q: At the end of last month, a delegation in relation to the Foreign Ministry — people like Professor Kanagi of Keio University — went to North Korea and came back. We hear that there is a counter delegation coming to Japan from North Korea. Is the date set for that? A: With regard to the first part of your question, no government delegation has been to Pyongyang recently. I think you are referring to the delegation of a private think tank — the Japan Institute of International Studies. That is not a government delegation. With regard to the second part of your question, there is a North Korean delegation in Japan right now, upon invitation from a private group in Japan. Since this is a private visit, sponsored by a private group, we do not have details on it. There was a press report referring to a meeting between this North Korean delegation and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and that they requested further rice assistance. I can tell you that there was a meeting between the delegation and the LDP on 10 April, the day before yesterday, but we are not aware of any request being made for additional rice assistance.

III. The Policy of Japan on Not Exercising the Right of Collective Self Defense

Q: The Summit and the focus on security plans have raised the issue in the general public and among politicians about collective defense. Can you comment on that? Is it appropriate what is going on now in terms of the discussions about it?

A: Exercising the right to collective defense is precluded by the Constitution of Japan. Nobody in the Government is suggesting that there will be a change to this. There has been a lot of talk about what Japan might do in a contingency in the areas near Japan. On this matter, there is a specific paragraph in the new Defense Program Outline, announced in November last year, which says that should a situation arise in the area surrounding Japan which would have an important influence on national peace and security, Japan will take appropriate response in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws and regulations, by properly supporting United Nations activities when needed, and by ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the Japan-United States Security Arrangements. We think the question of how Japan should respond to a situation like this is an important issue which needs to be looked at and studied very seriously. That is where we stand now.

Q: I know the LDP, for example, is looking at that through their own private study group. Have you heard about that?

A: Yes. I read about that in yesterday's or this morning's newspaper, but I am not aware of the details on that beyond what is in the papers.

Q: Can you be any more specific about the idea that this is an issue of further study by the Government?

A: I cannot be more specific than that.

Q: Nobody has even proposed — there has been no —?

A: We consider that this is an issue that has to be looked at very seriously. We attach importance to this aspect.

Q: Would it be correct to look at the ACSA, which I understand will be signed soon? Is that related to this idea in any way? Can that be looked at as a first step toward looking at closer ties and cooperation during an emergency as opposed to during peacetime?

A: I cannot say that yes, we will be signing the Acquisition and Cross-servicing Agreement (ACSA) very soon, because we are still negotiating the agreement. All I can say right now is that we are in the final stages of the talks, and that we hope there will be a final text as soon as possible. To answer your question, we believe that ACSA is a very important part of the defense cooperation between Japan and the United States.

Q: In that document that you just read to us about contingencies and emergencies near Japan, does that fall outside the definition of collective defense?

A: The same document says that the constitutional limitations will be respected — that there will be no change in Japan's policy of not exercising the right of collective self defense. It is clearly stated in the same document.

Q: The question is, if a war or hostile activity broke out very, very close to Japan, as opposed to in the Taiwan Strait, which is a long way off, would the emergency near Japan fall outside of collective defense? Would that be considered under different criteria? I am just trying to understand what this whole debate is about, because frankly, after reading this morning's papers I am very confused.

A: I cannot answer hypothetical questions. The situation you refer to is highly hypothetical. All I can say right now is what I have already said to you.

Q: Is it possible to get copies of that document you just read from the security guidelines that were released last fall?

A: You mean the Defense Program Outline?

Q: Yes.

A: I would be very glad to provide you with a copy of the document, and anybody else who would like a copy.

IV. Matters concerning the 2+2 Meeting of the Japan-United States Security Consultative Committee

Q: About the 2+2 — there is a lot of talk about ACSA and other arrangements. Is it possible that the 2+2 will agree on selecting new projects or new fields of cooperation? By that I mean, for example, theater missile defense, or mine-clearing operations in Cambodia, on a bilateral basis.

A: I cannot tell you what will be discussed in the 2+2 meeting of the Japan-United States Security Consultative Committee, except to say that they will be looking at the interim report of the Special Action Committee on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa (SACO). I have no knowledge of any other items on the agenda.

V. Matters Relating to Preliminary Contacts With North Korea

Q: Could you verify something on the preliminary contacts which you mentioned have been going on with North Korea? Have these preliminary contacts changed at all in the past week, given events on the border declaration by North Korea — from your own perspective?

A: I am precluded from discussing the specific contents or the timing of each contact. I cannot comment on that.

Q: I am not asking for the specifics, but the government has acknowledged that preliminary contacts have taken place. All I am asking is whether the status of those preliminary contacts changed at all?

A: All I can say is that these contacts have been going on for some time, and that we cannot discuss the specifics of each contact. Thank you very much.

Japan: ASEAN Envoys Say Dialogue Needed With China

OW1504133796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Envoys to Japan from the seven-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) said Monday [15 April] that dialogue with China should be promoted so as to keep Beijing from being isolated.

The ASEAN ambassadors made their case at a hearing before the House of Councillors' Research Panel on International Affairs. ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Malaysian envoy Datuk H.M. Khatib said it is necessary to take China in, not to contain China.

Singapore's ambassador, Lim Chin Beng, said confrontation with China would be an irreparable mistake, while Thai envoy Chawat Arthayukti said more dialogue with China is needed to build a relationship of mutual trust.

Japan: Rengo, Chinese Union Resume Talks Despite Differences

OW1504134696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — The largest labor organizations in Japan and China agreed Monday [15 April] to promote exchanges through mutual visits, Japanese labor union officials said.

The agreement was reached at a meeting in Tokyo between Jinnosuke Ashida, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), and Wei Jianxing, president of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU).

Rengo will send a mission to China next year, the officials said.

Ashida and Wei also agreed to hold seminars in China on labor unions at multinational companies operating in that country, they said.

Rengo cut off exchanges with the ACFTU after the Chinese organization criticized pro-democracy demonstrators during the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown. But as labor unions of Japanese companies in China already have ties with the ACFTU, Rengo decided to resume exchanges and invited Wei to visit Japan.

During the meeting, Ashida said human rights and union rights are not fully protected in China, according to the officials. But Wei brushed aside the criticism, saying China is at a different stage of economic development than Japan.

Ashida was also quoted as criticizing China for its recent nuclear tests and military drills near Taiwan. Wei replied there are social and ideological differences between the two countries, the officials said.

Wei is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the largest opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), on Tuesday.

The ACFTU, which belongs to the Communist Party of China, had 610,000 local unions as of 1990 and a total membership of 109.98 million in 1991.

Japanese Officials To Attend Taiwan Presidential Ceremony

OW1604065396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hong Kong, April 16 KYODO — The secretary general of Taiwan's ruling party Kuomintang revealed Tuesday [16 April] that Japan will send high-ranking officials to attend the island's presidential inauguration ceremony, Central News Agency reported.

Hsu Shui-teh told reporters that Japan will send official who "have worked at the prime ministerial level," but who these officials will be is up to Japan to decide, the Taiwanese news agency reported.

President Li Teng-hui, along with Vice President Lien Chan, won a landslide victory in last month's first direct presidential election. The inaugural ceremony is scheduled for May 20 and is expected to bring officials from around the world.

Hsu added that the possibility of Li paying a visit to Japan would not be discussed, as he is busy with preparations for the ceremony.

Last year, Li made a private visit to the United States, drawing sharp criticism from China, which views the island as a renegade province and wants to keep it internationally isolated.

Japan: Osaka Governor Leaves for Vietnam

OW1404081696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Osaka, April 14 KYODO — Osaka Gov. Knock Yokoyama left for Hanoi from Kansai Airport Sunday [14 April] to set up the prefecture's liaison office in Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam, prefectural government officials said.

Osaka will be the first Japanese municipality to have its own branch office in Vietnam, the officials said.

During his stay in Hanoi, Yokoyama will meet Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and several other Vietnamese leaders to ask them to set up a Vietnamese trade office in the western Japanese prefecture.

He will then travel to Ho Chi Minh City to visit the city's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Vietnamese city and Osaka Prefecture have signed an economic cooperation pact.

Yokoyama will return home Friday after a stopover in Hong Kong, the officials said.

The governor, whose real name is Isamu Yamada, is widely known as Knock Yokoyama, the name he used as a professional comedian.

Japan: MOFA on Africa Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone Treaty

OW1504102596 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 11 Apr 96

["Statement" by Japanese Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Hiroshi Hashimoto on the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone Treaty on 11 April; place not given; from the "What's New!" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. The Government of Japan welcomes the fact that 42 African countries signed on April 11 the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and that China, France, the U.K. and the U.S. signed the Protocols respectively, as these signing will contribute to strengthening nuclear non-proliferation in Africa. 2. The decision concerning the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament adopted in May last year at the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stated "The conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security is reaffirmed," and "The establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones by the time of the Review Conference in the year 2000 would be welcome." Today's signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and its Protocols is in line with the intention of that decision.

Japan To Urge Moscow To Approve Revised Nuclear Waste Pact

OW1604110596 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 13 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Government decided on 12 April to demand in the strongest possible way at the forthcoming Nuclear Security summit in Moscow that Russia approve the revised London Treaty banning disposal of toxic materials, including radioactive wastes. In addition, Tokyo will call for positive efforts by Moscow toward the early closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Although it is the host country for the summit, Russia has not yet approved the revised London Treaty. In 1993, Russia was under international criticism for dumping liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan and other areas. In October of the same year, it declared that "it will not resume dumping."

Unlike the seven major industrialized (G-7) countries, which approved revising the London Treaty in November 1993 to prohibit the dumping of low-level radioactive waste into the ocean, Russia has refused to approve the revision, leaving open the possibility of the resumption of dumping radioactive waste into the ocean.

In the past, the Japanese Government has cooperated in constructing a storage and treatment facility for liquid radioactive waste in Vladivostok in a bid to prevent Russia from resuming dumping. To completely eliminate the fear of a resumption of dumping, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will, at a 19 April summit, call on President Boris Yeltsin to give early approval to the revised treaty.

During the former USSR period, a tremendous explosion took place at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in 1986, exposing many people to radioactivity. Regarding the issue of its closure, G-7 countries and Ukraine exchanged a memorandum last December on its closure by 2000 under the cooperation from G-7 countries.

However, Russia has not yet agreed to that memorandum. In view of this, Japan seeks Moscow's positive participation in terms of the technical field.

Japan: Chemical Factory Blast Kills 3 in Hiroshima

OW1604011996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hiroshima, April 16 KYODO — An explosion ripped through a chemical factory in western Japan on Tuesday [16 April], killing three people and injuring several others, police said. The blast occurred around 8:50 A.M. [2350 GMT] at Chugoku Kayaku Co.'s factory in Etajima, Hiroshima Prefecture, police said. No other details were immediately available.

Japan Urged by LDP Head on Collective Defense Initiative

OW1604085496 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 22 Apr 96 p 26

["Summary" of remarks by Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the policy research council of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], in an interview with unidentified AERA correspondent; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In my opinion, it will be desirable to once again start deliberations on the government's interpretation of the Constitution in connection with the right to collective self-defense and to arrive at a conclusion thereafter. The new National Defense Program Outline [NDPO] is an outline that has taken into account the exercise of the right to collective self-defense. Therein lies the difference. We have done away with the phrase of "limited and small-scaled invasion" (with the former Soviet Union used in the old NDPO. If regional disputes should take place in Asia, it is said that it will be either on the Korean Peninsula or in the Taiwan Strait, from where the pressure of superpowers has been removed. In either case, it will involve Article VI of the Japan-U.S. security treaty. The point at issue lies in what Japan should do if the United States should be engaged in a war.

With regard to the right to collective self-defense, the issue will be studied within each party first, and then consultations will probably be held among the three ruling parties. As far as the LDP is concerned, deliberations will be jointly conducted among the Research Commission on the Constitution, the Research Commission on Security, and the Research Commission on Foreign Affairs.

However, since it is a very important and serious issue, it will not be that easy to conduct deliberations but it will take considerable time. If one should be asked to work out a hasty conclusion, it would end up with a conclusion that the constitutional interpretation cannot be changed. On that account, deliberations should be conducted in a thoroughgoing manner. At the same time, it will be better to discuss in details as to how far Japan would be able to act under the current interpretation.

What will be of importance in connection with the Japan-U.S. security arrangement in the future lies in the U.S. consultations with Japan prior to the dispatch of its forces. We will not be expected to respond "Yes" to U.S. requests all the time. Perhaps, we will say "No." This will be the card that Japan can deal in its diplomatic negotiations. In an emergency, Japan may say to the United States, "Go ahead because we will provide sufficient support"; or Japan may say, "Wait because Japan may get involved." There will be a great difference between these two cases. If Japan should be able to say "No," China will not be able to ignore Japan. Instead of pursuing diplomacy of playing up to either the United States or China as we used to, we should now take the initiative in diplomacy.

Japan: Need To Review Collective Defense Right Repeated

OW1604074596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Influential business group leader Jiro Ushio on Monday [15 April] reiterated the need for the government to review its stance on Japan's right to collective defense.

"It is time for Japan to decide in which direction it should head in the future," said Ushio, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), in relation to the issue at a Tokyo business forum sponsored by KYODO news.

"Japan should exist based on the alliance with the United States and together with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation members," Ushio said.

Keizai Doyukai issued a statement April 8 calling for the government to review its position that Japan's right to collective defense is not permitted under its constitution.

After pointing to what he views as attempts by Japan and U.S. to make the security treaty between the two countries more practical, Ushio said,"it will help southeast Asian nations feel more at ease because it is expected to prevent Japan from becoming a military superpower."

Asked if the ruling coalition will be able to review the right to collective defense, Ushio said it depends on whether the three parties — Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — can come to the same understanding on the matter.

"If not, the government should hold a general election as early as possible to see what type of government — the current coalition, coalition by two conservative parties or a one party government — the general public wants," Ushio said.

Japan: Bank Association Head: 'Jusen' Firms Can Bear No More

OW1604082796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — The head of a banking association said Tuesday [16 April] that banks which founded seven failed "jusen" housing loan companies will not shoulder any additional burden under a government-brokered scheme to liquidate the companies with the help of taxpayers' money.

Toru Hashimoto, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said at a press conference, "more burden by founder banks is impossible."

The government has sought additional burden by the founding banks while asking their top management to take responsibility over the problem in a bid to win the people's understanding on the use of taxpayers' money in liquidation of the firms.

Hashimoto, president of Fuji Bank, said he has no intention to resign to take responsibility for the housing loan company mess.

Hashimoto, meanwhile, welcomed the passage of a fiscal 1996 state budget which includes a controversial outlay for the liquidation of the seven mortgage companies as "a major step forward."

He noted, however, that budgetary funds for the liquidation will be paid out only after a liquidation system has been established.

Regarding growing calls to revise the bank of Japan law, Hashimoto said it is necessary to secure the independence of the Central Bank.

"It is natural to revise the bank of Japan law in accordance with the demands of the times," Hashimoto said.

Japan: Government Discussion of 'Jusen' Issue Urged

OW1604111796 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 12 Apr 96 p 1

[Editorial: "Budget Bill Adopted With Decision To Shelve Jusen Issues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The budget bill for fiscal 1996 was finally adopted at the lower house, and the bill will come into effect after consecutive holidays in early May. The adoption of the bill at the lower house came after a compromise between the ruling parties and the opposition camps on condition that the settlement of the issue concerning the liquidation of housing loan corporations [jusen] will be shelved while adopting the bill before U.S. President Clinton's visit to Japan.

Thus, the settlement of the jusen-related issues has been left to deliberations on jusen-related bills at the lower house Special Committee on Finance, which begins after the early May holidays.

Since there are a host of doubts that will need to be clarified at the Diet, it is strongly urged that the ruling and the opposition parties seriously discuss the jusen issues at the special committee and at the upper house Committee on the Budget, which will deliberate on the budget bill adopted by the lower house.

As for the government-proposed scheme to liquidate the jusen, we have repeatedly stressed that the appropriation of public funds to liquidate the jusen should be limited to such clear purposes as protecting depositors. There are no clear grounds for appropriating public funds amounting to Y685 billion. The fact that the ruling parties failed to convincingly explain why such a huge amount of public funds are needed became the biggest cause of recent confusion in the Diet.

Meanwhile, the New Frontier Party [NFP], the largest opposition party, strongly criticized the government's measures to liquidate the jusen and called for deleting the appropriation from the budget bill. However, the NFP failed to come up with an effective counterproposal, and the budget committee session, which resumed on 1 April fallen into deadlock.

Judging from such a situation surrounding the Diet, we cannot help but question the concession between the ruling parties and the NFP to suspend the appropriation for the jusen. However, in a sense, it must have been unavoidable for them to come to such a compromise. This is because they could not leave the budget bill alone.

Although the lower house budget committee spent over 200 hours to discuss the jusen-related issues, what was discussed was not always substantial. Meanwhile, the NFP's sit-in tactics to hinder the committee session faced public criticism. In this way, we cannot say that the Diet sessions have answered the people's expectations, and this situation is still continuing. We hope that the members of the upper house budget committee will thoroughly discuss anew propriety of the disbursement of Y685 billion and responsibilities of executives of the bankrupt jusen, banks that are founders of the jusen, and Agriculture Ministry-related financial institutions as well as both political and administrative responsibilities.

At the forthcoming sessions of the lower house special committee on finance, the jusen-related bills are to be deliberated. At the committee, there are many issues to be discussed, such as whether it is proper for the government to bear half of funds to cover secondary loss amounting to Y1.2 trillion, which is expected to occur during the course of liquidating the jusen, and whether secondary loss will increase further.

Meanwhile, stormy deliberations on other bills are also expected. It is extremely uncertain how the Diet situation will go on because there is a controversial issue concerning Diet summoning of Secretary General Koichi Kato of the Liberal Democratic Party. The government has managed to jump over the first hurdle to settle the jusen-related issues, and there are more difficult hurdles ahead.

Japan: Delay in Daiwa, Sumitomo Bank Merger Reported

OW1304013196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO — Sumitomo Bank and Daiwa Bank are considering postponing the decision of a merger plan to sometime after this fall, a business daily reported Saturday [13 April].

Daiwa had been expected to merge with Sumitomo this fall after its withdrawal from operations in the United States in February.

But the plan has been shelved for the time being because it has become clear to the two major commercial banks that the damage caused by being expelled from the U.S. on Daiwa's business was rather limited, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said.

Daiwa was shut out from the U.S. market due to a scandal last year in which it hid from U.S. authorities massive losses it incurred through unauthorized trading in U.S. treasury bonds by its trader.

Daiwa sought the help of Sumitomo last October and asked it to take over Daiwa's U.S. operation and possibly merge at home as well.

The business takeover by Sumitomo in the U.S. market has been completed as planned, but there have been few developments reported on the merger.

The paper reported, if the merger is to be proceeded this fall, the two banks have to iron out a concrete plan and then submit it at annual stockholders' meetings, scheduled in late June by each bank.

Senior officials at the banks were quoted as saying they do not expect the merger issue to progress much by June, the paper added.

Japan: EPA: Economic Activity Recovering in All Regions

OW1504133996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Economic activity is picking up in all 10 regions of Japan, according to a regional economic report for April released Monday by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA).

It is the first confirmation of economic recovery in all regions since the June 1995 report, the EPA said.

Economic activity is showing gradual signs of recovery in the Tokai, Hokuriku and Chugoku regions as automobile production and other manufacturing operations, which have been stagnant since last summer due to the yen's steep appreciation, are starting to improve.

In Tokai, for example, industrial production has expanded on the back of increased auto production.

Activity in Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa is recovering as personal consumption remains strong, the EPA said.

It also said a gradual recovery is continuing in Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto and Kinki, with industrial production and public works staying firm.

An official of the EPA's Research Bureau said regional disparities in economic activity are narrowing and will continue to do so.

Japan: Precise Satellite Monitoring System Developed

OW1604103596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — A Posts ministry research laboratory said Tuesday [16 April] it has developed a system to precisely calculate the distance between two satellites in the same stationary orbit, the first of its kind in the world.

The Kashima Space Research Center of the Posts and Telecommunications ministry's Communications Research laboratory said the system uses radiowaves from any two of the closest satellites to figure out the distance between them.

Officials of the research center said more than 500 satellites are now located at different stationary points in the same orbit 36,000 kilometers above the equator and their locations are controlled by individual owners. The officials said the center plans to put the system to practical use after a few years of experiments.

Japan: KDD Launches International Services Via Inmarsat

OW1504121196 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — KDD [an international long-distance carrier] said Monday [15 April] it has launched new services of direct international communications through the International Maritime Communication Satellite (Inmarsat) system.

It said until now in Japan the Inmarsat system has been available only for communications to or from ships or aircraft.

But with newly developed small equipment, users can get access to the satellite system directly from anywhere in Japan to make a phone call or send a facsimile overseas, it said.

Communications through the system are available to 29 countries.

Access under a category called B-system under the new services to cities in Asia and the United States will be charged at 53 yen per six seconds, and to European cities 60 yen per six seconds, KDD said.

Japan: Oil Industry Calls on Government Price System Support

OW1504055196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO — Oil industry leaders called on the government Monday [15 April] to create an environment conducive to the industry's new petroleum products pricing system designed to bring domestic prices in line with international standards, trade ministry officials said.

The request came when Petroleum Association of Japan executives met with International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara over breakfast at a Tokyo hotel, the officials said.

Tsukahara was quoted as saying the government expects to provide support from the sidelines for transition to the new system, noting it is important to adjust prices to international levels.

Under the conventional pricing system, gasoline prices have been set higher than those abroad, while gas oil and kerosene prices have been kept lower.

The imbalance is the result of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's policy to hold down gas oil and kerosene prices — which it considers influential on public lives — in the wake of the oil crisis in the 1970s.

But oil companies are now introducing new pricing systems to rectify the imbalance because the April 1 liberalization of petroleum product imports has thrust them into international competition.

Meanwhile, Yuji Idemitsu, president of the association, urged Tsukahara to ease tax burdens on oil companies, the officials said.

Petroleum products are currently subject to indirect taxes just for them as well as consumption tax which generally applies to all goods and services.

Tsukahara said the government will continue studying comprehensively as indicated in the fiscal 1996 tax reform package compiled in December, the officials said.

Japan: Iron, Steel Federation: FY95 Output 100 Million Tons

OW1604095196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Japan's crude steel production in fiscal 1995 ended March 31 slipped 1.3 percent from the previous year but remained above the 100 million ton line for the second consecutive year at 100.03 million tons, an industry group said Tuesday [16 April].

It was, however, the first year-on-year fall in two years, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said.

The federation said steelmakers increased their output from previous-year levels during the first half of the fiscal year, expecting that demand for steel would grow due to the restoration works in Kobe and surrounding areas in western Japan, hit by a powerful earthquake in January last year.

But as the demand turned out to be weaker than expected, and in addition, imports of foreign steel products increased, makers had to restrain output in the latter half of the year, the federation said.

"With many manufacturers continuing to shift their production overseas, there will be no major recovery in steel demand" in the current 1996 business year, a federation official predicted.

The organization projects crude steel output in the current year to total about 98 million tons.

It also reported crude steel production in March fell 7.6 percent from a year earlier to 8.15 million tons, marking the eighth consecutive month of year-on-year falls.

Of the total, production by converter dropped 9.1 percent to 5.32 million tons and that by electric furnaces fell 4.7 percent to 2.83 million tons, the federation said.

Japan: JETRO Announces FY95 Food Imports Rise 9.3 Percent

OW1604103996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — Japan's food imports in 1995 rose 9.3 percent from the preceding year to 51.49 billion dollars, exceeding 50 billion dollars for the first time, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) said Tuesday [16 April].

On a yen basis, the food imports dropped 2.5 billion yen from the year before to 4.81 trillion yen, the semi-governmental organization said.

Of the total, imports of fish and shellfish made up 34 percent, while meat accounted for 19 percent and grains made up 11 percent.

Strong imports of meat were seen, with imports of pork growing 28 percent, and of chicken rising 32 percent.

Imports of both fruit and vegetables grew 10 percent, but grain imports decreased 15.9 percent in response to the emergency imports of rice in 1994.

Imports from the United States made up 29 percent of the total, and those from China accounted for 10 percent, while those from Taiwan and Australia made up 6 percent each.

Japan: Minister Submits Forestry 'White Paper' to Cabinet

OW1604032496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO — The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries proposed Tuesday [16 April] that the government take measures to create fresh demand for wood materials for interior finishing work in order to galvanize the forestry industry.

The proposal came in an annual White Paper on forestry, which was submitted by farm minister Ichizo Ohara to a cabinet meeting.

The report said the creation of demand for wood materials is inevitable to compete with nonwood materials such as those made of vinyl.

According to the report, demand for wood materials stood at 110 million cubic meters in 1994 and demand for residential construction accounted for 34 percent of the total to come to 37 million cubic meters.

But demand for board materials, which have been used for floors, walls and parts of roofs, has recently been decreasing sharply due to the westernization in the style of building a house.

Shipments of board materials in 1994 plunged 40 percent from 1980 to 4 million cubic meters, it said.

The report proposed that the lumber processing industry and related research institutes cooperate to create fresh demand for wood materials for interior finishing work.

If nonwood materials currently used for interior building are replaced by wood materials, fresh demand for 4 million cubic meters of wood materials a year will be created, the report said.

As for the lumber supply system, the report said it is important for mills and lumber agents to make an agreement on trading to provide lumber at stable prices for the domestic market.

Japan: Finance Ministry Criticized as National Bookmaker

962B0043A Tokyo SEIKAI in Japanese Feb 96 p 42-46

[Article by Manabu Tachiyama, critic: "Perform 'Surgery' Into True or Falsewood of Arguments for Finance Ministry Dissolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "What kind of guidance has Japan's Ministry of Finance [MOF] been giving all this time?" When the Daiwa Bank incident, in which that bank was banished from the United States after losing an enormous amount of money, broke, the target of criticism by people overseas was not so much Daiwa but the Ministry of Finance itself, which possesses supervisory authority. It is also in charge of the Jusen [housing loan companies] problem. To make matters worse, there are frequent scandals within the MOF, so there is not much good that can be said about it. Things have come to the point that, in order to effect structural improvement, "arguments for its dissolution" are being bandied about, but we need to stop and wait a minute. Without realizing the seriousness of its structural defects, it would be utterly useless to perform "surgery" on this leading ministry, which has evolved into a veritable national "bookie" for "rigged games of chance." This report sounds a warning bell about the all too easy "argument for MOF liquidation" and once again gives notice of the MOF constitution which has gotten into serious trouble.

It Is Natural That There Would Be Calls for Dismemberment of This Scandalous Ministry; A Termination in a Style Reminiscent of National Railway's "Fake Bankruptcy" Should Be Avoided

Voices in the mass media clamoring for "dissolution of the MOF" are increasing daily. Even the administrative reform project team of the ruling parties has begun an inquiry into a proposal to dismember the MOF.

The issue in which Daiwa Bank was banished from the United States made plain the peculiar cozy relationship between the MOF and Japanese banks, which was received with an air of distrust internationally. Because the financial "trust system," whose very lifeblood is that trust, was dealt the blow of international nonconfidence, this is a lethal situation. To allow this distortion of the MOF's financial supervisory administration to continue to go unchecked would damage the national honor. The argument that "Japan is different" is intensifying even more and there is growing isolation of Japan in the global community.

Meanwhile, Japan's economy has received a significant blow with the occurrence of the bubble in the 1980's and the long period of economic recession after the bubble burst, but the failure of the MOF and the Bank of Japan to take corrective actions has deepened those wounds. In the future, even assuming that corrective actions to heal those wounds are set forth, it will first have to be premised up on a clarification of the responsibility of the MOF and Bank of Japan for their past failure.

For instance, a proposal is under examination for a portion of the 40 trillion yen in bad loans held by financial institutions to be paid through introduction of public funds, but in bringing that about, it will likely be impossible for the public to go along with this if not only the management of the banks but the supervisory responsibility of the MOF is not also made clear.

The government is saying that, amid the Japanese economy having entered a low growth period, a greater burden must be asked of the public than was the case in the past by way of the consumption tax, etc., in order to maintain welfare, pensions, etc.

At such a pivotal juncture, the rankly corrupt behavior of top MOF executives Budget Bureau Deputy Chief Yoshio Nakajima, Tokyo Customs Chief Hiroaki Taya and others came to light. Even if a request is made for an increased burden on the public while no disinfestation work at all is done on the corruption inside the MOF, it will probably refuse. No doubt that the MOF bureaucrats have accumulated misdeeds which people would call for dissolution or dismantling of that ministry.

However, it is too easy just to suddenly advocate "dismantling the MOF." When a scandal occurs, the mass media, not just limited to the MOF issue, are all too ready to advocate dismantling something. This was the case, for instance, when they called for "dismantling Tokyo University," etc., but there are many times that they neglect their fundamental job of "revealing the truth." The majority of "advocacy of dismantling" is to give a "provocative title," and evaporates like steam after the passage of a little time and, in the end, those institutions subject to the "dismantling argument" wind up being preserved just the way they were. That fact has been proven out by experience up to this point.

To allow this to end with the usual arguments for "dismantling" and "splitting" without efforts to "reveal the truth" leaves open the possibility that it will turn out in a similar fashion to the uproar over the "feigned bankruptcy." That is something that requires caution.

The MOF holds the tax revenues and assets of the public in its grasp. To make an analogy with a company, this would make the public akin to being the "stock holders."

The fact of declaring the bankruptcy of this Japan—MOF "Incorporated" and advocating readjustment and dissolution is equivalent to the argument for "dismantlement of MOF." In that case, not only would the nation or the "stockholders" have to bear that burden, it is also a major prerequisite that the "truth," that is settlement and bankruptcy information would have to be publicly disclosed.

To not do that and to force the public to take on the burden for handling the debt, merely giving the assets and project another name, for instance, to move it into Cabinet Budget Bureau for the same ones to continue their work, would be nothing other than "fabricated bankruptcy."

There is a precedent for foisting out as "dismantling argument" by the national "fabricated bankruptcy" method. That was seen in the dismantling of the National Railway [JR]. The National Railway was made to take on a massive debt, and, without tracking down the responsibility and cause of the debt of politicians, Transport Ministry bureaucrats, and financial world figures, the "dismantling of the debt-ridden national railway" was hurried along, and the land assets and JR stock and 26 trillion yen in debt was moved to a liquidation corporation.

However, in the end, unable to readjust the 25 trillion yen in debt, an attempt is being made to force the debt onto the public. None of the problems plaguing the National Railroad have been solved even after it became JR. The national "fabricated bankruptcy" method was used to obscure the truth of the "failure of National Railway management."

Predisposed "Coziness" of Mass Media, Which Shifts the Focus; the Lenient Argument for Partitioning That Obscures the Fact of Being a "Budget Bureau Deputy Chief"

Regarding the MOF issue, even more than in the case of the National Railway, there is a strong possibility that "action" will be hurried along without communicating the facts to the public. The rudiments of the factual relationship are being concealed and a "reporting operation" is being perpetrated for that purpose.

For instance, on 4 November when they reported the announcement of U.S. finance authorities of the banishment of Daiwa Bank from the United States, all the major Japanese newspapers without exception (not including the U.S. language Japan Times) wrote as their top headline, "Sumitomo Bank and Daiwa Bank Move Toward Merger." A scheme is being carried out of glossing over the major scandal of a Japanese bank being banished from within the United States and characterizing it as a "Merger Leading to the Birth of World's Largest Bank."

This "4 November headline incident" has its roots not only in the cozy relationship between the banks and the MOF, which should monitor the former, but was a confession of how much Japanese news institutions, which are in the position of monitoring the MOF administration, have a collusive relationship with the MOF.

Further, even a caustic commentator who strongly criticizes the "cozy relationship" between those major newspapers and the MOF made statements in the **ASAHI SHIMBUN** identifying the former MOF Budget Bureau deputy director general in this issue as a "former financial research institute head," which is utter nonsense.

Because the MOF does not want the public to know that MOF elite bureaucrat Yoshio Nakajima is a Budget Bureau deputy director general, who could be called the most representative person of the MOF, it moved Nakajima, who was Budget Bureau deputy director general in March when his corrupt activities were disclosed and punishment was announced, to the post of "financial research center head" in June where it then happened that he was relieved of his duties at his own request.

The "sharp tongued" commentator, carried away by the pace of the MOF, did not make clear the fact that Nakajima was Budget Bureau deputy director general and bravely advocated "dismantling and splitting of the MOF," so for the MOF, this type of "MOF dismantlement" argument is extremely lenient.

For the question of unseemly conduct of a Budget Bureau official, particularly a person in a position that has such an impact on the nation's financial affairs, to not be grasped as a problem of corruption of a budget bureau official and try to characterize it as misbehavior of an inconsequential financial research institute head is a complete failure to understand the seriousness of this issue.

A Budget Bureau deputy director general is like the pilot of a jumbo passenger jet carrying 120 million Japanese and their assets. It is not the Cabinet that holds real authority of national budget formation but the Budget Bureau of the MOF. Approximately 10 Budget Bureau officials have had de facto control of running our nation by manipulating its budget.

At present, the jumbo jet named "Japan," having entered the severe turbulence of the burst bubble, is being rocked violently. At that juncture, we have discovered that our pilots, having been engaged in a raucous party of "sumptuous debauchery," are hung over. This is a matter of grave concern on which the fate of the people of Japan rides. The nation is faced with solving the perplexing task of replacing Japan's "drunken pilots" and landing the plane safely.

In the March 1985 issue of the MOF's public relations magazine FINANCE, the same Yoshio Nakajima, under the title of Budget Bureau planner, and in the March 1986 issue of that journal, the same Hiroaki Taya, similarly under the title of Budget Bureau planner, each published a thesis entitled "Mid-term Outlook of Financial Conditions." Nakajima and Taya were seated at the center of the real work of formation of Japan's national budget in the mid-1980's when the bubble got started.

National "Game of Chance" Made Widespread by Privatization; Structure is Such that Dismantling of MOF Alone Would Be Futile

What is the distinguishing feature of the "Nakajima-Taya" financial policy? In a word, it is the construction of a privatized line of financial policy. Put another way, it stresses taking charge as a businessman of the work of preparing the way for transition to a speculative—gambling type of financial policy.

The demands of politicians toward a budget of vested interests will only swell. Therefore, it was only natural that those in charge of financial policy would think about increasing the Treasury receipts without issuing deficit-financing government bonds and tax increases. At this time there was an example given by the privatization line of Britain's Thatcher in which new income can be obtained by privatizing state-run enterprises and selling them off as stocks.

The "public enterprises and corporations study" of the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA) recommended that this method be introduced in Japan. This would mean privatization of three government enterprises, public corporations and postal savings and selling the stocks so that a 120 trillion yen balance of national debt could be readjusted without additional tax burden. However, the true aim, rather than readjusting the nation's debts, was to secure new sources of revenue for vested interest projects sought by politicians.

As a case in point, the amount of money scheduled to be paid to the liquidation corporation JR stock sales profit was 1.2 trillion yen at the low price, but if JR stock could have been sold at 30 times the price, it would have been 15 trillion yen. With this, the Shinkansen readjustment revenue source would leave a generous balance, and this was the unreliable account of the vested interest groups. Consequently, efforts were made to jack up the NTT stock sales price which was up first. This national stock operation and the emergence of the bubble are one and the same, and the bookie for this "rigged game of chance" was the MOF.

The privatization line on its face value promoted such things as "Ad Hoc Council on Second Administrative Reform," "JAPIC [expansion unknown]," "The National Institute for Research Advancement," etc., but behind the scenes arrangements and adjustments were carried out by MOF top executives. With the backing of former MOF vice minister Shigeya Kichise (National Railways rehabilitation management committee), Yoshio Nakajima assembled young career bureaucrats from each ministry and since 1980 organized a (monthly) study group called the "Nogisakakai." As adviser to the Ad Hoc Council on Second Administrative Reform, Ryuzo Sejima was frequently called to lecture there.

In order to sell NTT stock at a higher price, the MOF used securities companies under its supervision, had banks under its supervision to provide funding, used the mass media to perform a flashy "triple merit" campaign to raise related stocks of Tokyo Electric Power Co., Inc., ignoring market principles to carry out a collusive rigged privatization stock price hiking operation. The network of former MOF leading executives who had moved into the private sector became the base of this rigged stock operation.

Whether it be land speculation or stock speculation, there are times when one makes money and when one takes a loss. For that reason, the conventional wisdom is that speculative behavior becomes one's own responsibility. However, in the combination of privatization stock sale and real estate speculation campaign, the myth that prices will definitely rise because government will be there to provide backup was circulated. The ones who were caught in this "fabricated story" that mythical stock and land speculation deal that was destined to win were the very ones who devised the "rigged game of chance" scheme and circulated the "fabricated story."

The ones who devised the national stock price operation and the politicians, financial figures, and journalists who have access to that information and the top level people in the bureaucracy, were convinced that "we will definitely make money" (the same way people who catch wind of a the rigged game of chance will try to jump on the bandwagon), and they bought large amounts of NTT stock and real estate. Former Kumamoto Prefecture Governor Morihiro Hosokawa bought NTT stock, and both politicians and bureaucrats bought real estate and stocks. It was in the mid-1980's when deputy director general of the National Tax Administration Agency Wakabayashi purchased an expansive condominium.

However, the market got sweet revenge for this. The bubble burst, as it should have, and those caught up in the mad speculative rush, whether they were high government officials or influential politicians or banks, all sustained major losses. It is likely that the elite stratum who opened this great pit, having been carried away by the "theory that privatization stock will definitely pay off," ended up becoming stained by more and more mixing up of private and public matters in corruption to try to cover that gaping chasm.

The roots of even recent misconduct of many politicians starting with Diet member Toshio Yamaguchi the scandals of the MOF high-level bureaucrats can be traced to the uproar over the privatization stock sell-offs of the 1980's. The tab for the bubble brought about by privatization will not only be the bad loans of the banks.

As a side-effect of the privatization line, disease of corrupting financial influence has spread to the top levels of society. A reexamination of the privatization policy is in order. The subject of dismantlement is not only the MOF but the entire closed-door vested interest collusive network. Dismantling of the so-called "Japanese system," the "vested interest collusive organization "of the MOF, mass media, financial circle, academia, federations, politicians is at issue.

Fifty Former MOF Officials "Descend From Heaven" to Land Comfortable Positions in Financial Institutions; Preservation of Cozy Relationships by "Detour Route" Via Special Corporations

Along with the frequent occurrence of financial scandals, the MOF is under constant criticism for its lenient handling. Although it is said that in order to embark on a strict stance, putting an end to the "Descending from Heaven [movement of public officials into cushy private-sector posts]" structure is necessary, the actual state of affairs is more serious that one might imagine.

According to a recent survey by the Labor Federation for Corporations with Special Status (Chairman: Kuniharu Sakaniwa) created by labor unions such as Housing and Urban Development Corporation, 50 (as of the end of 1994) out of 122 former MOF executives (of bureau chief rank or higher) have assumed posts in private financial institutions, such as banks, securities companies, as well as life and nonlife insurance companies.

Concerning the reemployment of bureaucratic employees in the private sector, the National Civil Servant Law specifies that these people cannot be employed in companies with which they had dealings and intimate relations for a period of two years after leaving their government posts.

For this reason, the method in which after temporarily serving as a director to a so-called special status corporation, such as the Housing Loan Corporation, etc., they can receive generous retirement funds and then become employed by a private firm.

It turns out that as many as 30 of those 50 who became reemployed in private financial institutions took that route. Among the different posts, the one that stands out most is Mint Bureau Director. Nine of the successive 15 in this job have gone on to take up posts in private financial institutions and eight of those employed this method. Four from the "Printing Bureau Director" post used it as did three MOF representative committee members of the Bank of Japan policy committee which directly decides financial policy.

On top of pointing out that the Civil Servant Law is becoming filled with loopholes by means of these "detours," Director General Kazuma Tsutsumi of the same Labor Federation asserts, "If there is not strict regulation of the movement of former public officials into special corporations, this structure of cozy relations between bureaucrats and private business will never end."

If it could be said that because the former officials are taking posts in the private sector they are able to provide more thorough-going guidance than usual and avoid in advance the likes of financial scandals, it would be another thing, but the truth really seems to be to the contrary. The relationship of "interdependence" between authorities and their private sector destinations is becoming a custom, so the actual situation is that it is inevitable that the supervisory and guidance function becomes lax.

North Korea

DPRK Daily Denounces Attempts To Place DPRK Issue on UNSC Agenda

SK1604044696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 16 Apr 96

["S. Korean Puppets Disgrace Themselves in Anti-North Campaign" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets failed to bring the issue of tension in the Korean peninsula to the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] on April 9 in a bid to blame the North for the strained situation caused by their reckless, frantic war moves.

The next day, they brought about their made "presidential statement" of the UN Security Council "expressing concern about the destruction of the armistice agreement by the North" and "urging the North to observe it." But it was also rejected without being submitted to the UN Security Council.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN today says the South Korean puppets have disgraced themselves in an effort to bring to the UN Security Council the issue for harming the North.

As for the South Korean puppets, they are only marionettes without any power in the issue of security in the Korean peninsula, the paper says, and continues:

The Korean Armistice Agreement was signed by the North of Korea and the United States. The South Korean puppets are not eligible to poke their nose into the issue. The commander of the South Korea- U.S. combined forces is a U.S. general and the operational control in South Korea is also taken by the United States.

The wreckers of the Korean armistice agreement are not the North but the United States, which has historically and systematically violated and killed the agreement and the armistice supervisory tools in the name of UN forces, and the South Korean authorities under U.S. patronage.

It is really the height of sarcasm that the puppets have attempted to blame the North for the destroyed armistice agreement and internationalize the issue.

They must know of themselves and stop their foolish acts such as trying to do harm to the North if they are not to be put to a more disgraceful shame.

DPRK: 15 Apr ROK Civil Defense Training Denounced

SK1604022696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to radio reports from Seoul, the South Korean puppets on 15 April staged a so-called general civil defense training, and frantically instigated a fever of northward war aggression.

That day, the puppets even flew 13 simulated enemy airplanes in the skies above 38 cities including Seoul, and staged a civil anti- aircraft defense training with the participation of hundreds of thousands of people taking shelter. Thus, they ran amok with commotions of slander, smear, and confrontation with us.

On the pretext of preposterous military threats by someone else, as days go by, the South Korean puppets are dashing toward the more dangerous brink of war. They are more adventurously perpetrating commotions of confrontation and war exercises against us, thus driving all areas of South Korea into a war atmosphere.

The Kim Yong-sam group should keep in mind that its reckless maneuvers of northward war aggression will only expedite its own miserable end. It should not act rashly and recklessly.

DPRK: 'Military Training' Held Throughout ROK

SK1604092696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0922 GMT 16 Apr 96

["Military Training Held Throughout South Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets, on Monday [15 April], carried out a military training codenamed "day of civilian defence" throughout South Korea, frantically fostering a fever of war against the North, according to media reports.

With thirteen mock enemy planes flying over 38 cities including Seoul, they staged the anti-air raid and shelter-taking training involving hundreds of thousands of people for the purpose of escalating abuses of the North and confrontation with it.

With unfounded rumours about the North's "military threat," they are hell bent in confrontation and more adventurous war moves against the North, driving the situation to the brink of war. In this way, they are plunging the whole of South Korea into a horrible atmosphere of war.

The Kim Yong-sam group must stop running wild, clearly mindful that their reckless war moves against the North will only precipitate their miserable doom.

DPRK: No Su-sok Made Honorary Student at Kim Il-song University

SK1304050896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Student No Su-sok of Yonsei University in Seoul was registered as a second-year honorary student of the law course of the Law Department of Kim Il- song University.

No Su-sok was a second-year student of the law faculty of Yonsei University.

He was murdered by the "civilian" fascists so that he could not attain his ideal and ambition to become a lawyer.

A meeting of registering him as an honorary student according to the decision of a joint meeting of presidents of universities and rectors of colleges in Pyongyang was held at Kim Il-song University on April 12.

In his report, O Kil-bang, the first deputy president of the university, said that registration of No Su-sok as an honorary student of its Law Department is a positive support to the just patriotic struggle of South Korean students and an expression of compatriotic obligation to make the hope and future of the students of one and the same blood in the South come into bloom.

A letter to the teaching staff and students of Yonsei University and the parents of No Su-sok was adopted at the meeting.

The letter expressed the belief that the teaching staff and students of Yonsei University, which produced many patriotic martyrs, would certainly vent their grudge, turn out daringly in the struggle to bring a new true society of independence and democracy and the parents of No Su-sok would more unbendingly live in the sacred struggle of one million students in South Korea.

DPRK: SKNDF Central Committee Sends Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK1504060696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0342 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a letter on Monday from the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) [SKNDF] on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The respected Comrade Kim Il-song was the greatest leader, whom our nation and humankind acclaimed and upheld for the first time in history, gifted thinker and theoretician, veteran and great statesman, ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and the supreme incarnation of human love and virtues, the letter says, and notes:

The faith of the vanguard fighters and people from all walks of life in the South that Comrade Kim Il-song is and will always be with us has been hardened as they are upholding you, Comrade Kim Chong-il, at the head of the nation.

It is the unshakable will and immovable pledge of our vanguard fighters and patriotic people from all strata to uphold you, the great General Kim Chong-il, as the saviour of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification and fulfill the behests of Comrade Kim Il-song for reunification, following you.

Cherishing the iron faith that you are precisely Comrade Kim Il- song, we will further strengthen and develop the NDFSK into a true vanguard organisation of chuche-type which breathes and acts as indicated by your idea and as intended by you, advances in your spirit and wins victory with your stratagem.

The letter wholeheartedly wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

DPRK: Foreign Groups Visit Kim Il-song's Statue

SK1404074696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0705 GMT 14 Apr 96

[All names are as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA) — A delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil led by member of its Central Committee Marcia Campos, a delegation of the Sind Provincial Committee of the Pakistan People's Party led by secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Party Shamim N.D. Khan, secretary general of the Bangladesh-Korea Friendship Association Nuran Nabie and a delegation of the Wuqiao International Acrobatic Festival Committee led by Deputy Secretary Zhao Jingzhi visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on Saturday to lay bouquets of flowers and make bows before his statue.

On the same day, the economic and trade counsellors corps in Korea, Staniswav Skovron, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Polish Embassy here, and embassy officials laid floral baskets and bouquets and made bows before his statue.

DPRK: Chongnyon Officials Lay Flowers Before Kim Il-song's Statue

SK1404074996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0706 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA) — A delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) headed by Vice Department Director of its Central Standing Committee Yi Han-su and a delegation of Japan-resident Korean female traders and industrialists headed by Kim Il- sun, chairwoman of the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, and home-visiting groups of students of Korean university under Chongnyon laid floral baskets and bouquets and made bows before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on April 12.

DPRK: Cambodian King Sends Floral Basket to DPRK Embassy

SK1504064296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0359 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — A large floral basket from Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, was sent to the Korean Embassy in Cambodia on April 10 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

On the same day large floral baskets came to the Korean Embassy from the first prime minister of the Cambodian Government, the honorary president, the first vice-president and the general secretary of the National Assembly, the Funcinpec Party, the People's Party of Cambodia and the ministers of foreign affairs and international cooperation, defence and internal affairs.

DPRK: Foreigners Send Flower Baskets on Kim Il-song Birthday

SK1504072996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0345 GMT 15 Apr 96

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — A floral basket was laid before a portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song on April 7 by Garib Newaz, president of the Bangladesh People's Leauge and chairman of the Bangladesh Self-reliance Research Center, on the occasion of April 15.

Garib Newaz visited the Korean Embassy in Dhaka, laid the floral basket and made a bow to President Kim Il-song with reverence.

On the occasion he said that "the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song will remain forever in the hearts of humankind and we will surely remain his disciples and advocators of the chuche idea."

Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, laid a bouquet before a portrait of President Kim Il-song at the Korean Embassy in New Delhi on the occasion of April 15.

And Chairman Jasim Uddin Ahmed and Secretary General Kamrul Huda of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Self-reliance Research Academy, Muhammad Asghar, minister of industry of Pakistan, Fakhar Zaman, acting minister of culture of Pakistan, the joint secretary and the secretary of the office of the Pakistan People's Party, the secretary general of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Senators Group who is concurrently joint secretary of the president of the senate, the chairman and the secretary general of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association, and other officials concerned visited Korean Embassies in their countries and laid floral baskets and bouquets before President Kim Il-song's portraits.

DPRK Papers Commemorate Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1504074096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — Today marks the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

All papers of Korea give special write-ups on this occasion.

NODONG SINMUN carries an editorial headlined "Our Party and People Will Carry Forward the Tradition of Certain Victory to the End" and MINJU CHOSON an editorial headlined "Let Us Accomplish Socialist Cause Holding the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song in High Esteem for All Ages."

Under the bannerline letters "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il- song Will Always Be With Us," MINJU CHOSON gives nearly one whole page to the picture of President Kim Il-song with a smile as bright as the sun, under which it conspicuously edits a poem "The leader and spring."

Taking much space of papers is an account of the national meeting to commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song and a report delivered at the meeting and a speech made by Kim Su- sik, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

Under the fixed title "They Always Worked Together for the People," NODONG SINMUN edits an article titled "Eternal Look of My Beloved Fatherland," illustrated by a picture of the great leader President Kim Il-song accompanied by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il (April 1985).

Seen in MINJU CHOSON are articles introducing the enduring feats performed by President Kim Il-song and articles dealing with the Korean people's ardent feelings to hold him in high esteem forever.

Given in NODONG SINMUN are an account of meetings held by officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and officials and members of the Korean Democratic Women's Union to introduce the loving care and solicitude shown by President Kim Il-song, and an account of a national story-telling meeting of schoolchildren five years since President Kim Il-song and the respected General Kim Chong-il planted trees at the April 15 Children's Flower Garden.

The press carries the news that the Cambodian king sent a large floral basket and leaders of political parties of Russia floral baskets on the birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

On his birth anniversary, his works were published in pamphlet and ceremonies were held on a large scale in different countries, says the press.

Foreigners and overseas Koreans paid homage to President Kim Il- song at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, according to the press.

Seen in papers are letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the C.C. [Central Committee], the National Democratic Front of South Korea [SKNDF] and the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon on the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

Papers report that Comrade Kim Chong-il remitted educational aid fund and stipends for the Japan-resident Korean children.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Others Lay Baskets Before Kim Il-song's Statue

SK1504102496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — Senior party and state officials, working people, People's Army soldiers, students and school children, overseas Koreans and foreigners laid floral baskets before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill today on his 84th birth anniversary.

Placed before the statue was a floral basket from the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

Colors of the three services of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and guards of honor of the KPA were lined around the statue.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Pyong-sik and other senior party and state officials and working people from all walks of life.

Overseas Koreans on a visit to the socialist homeland, diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of different countries here and other foreigners were also on hand.

The national anthem was played.

Amid the playing of music, floral baskets were laid before the statue in the name of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, the DPRK Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, the anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans, the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces, the Ministry of Public Security, units of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces, commissions and ministries of the Administration Council, the joint organisations of the Korean Children's Union, political parties, public organisations, national institutions and organs of science, education, culture and art, public health and the press.

Floral baskets from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, overseas Koreans, the diplomatic corps, and the military attaches corps accredited to Korea and foreigners were also laid before the statue.

People from all walks of life, soldiers of the KPA, students and school children in Pyongyang laid floral baskets and bouquets before the statue.

Written on the ribbons hanging from the floral baskets were "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Immortal," "The Great Revolutionary Exploits of the Respected Leader Generalissimo Kim Il- song Will Be Everlasting," etc.

The participants paid homage to the president, looking back with deep emotion on his imperishable revolutionary history and achievements in making the Korean nation shine as a most powerful and dignified independent nation and Korea as a powerful socialist state of chuche.

Senior officials of party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs, people from all walks of life, KPA soldiers, public security men, students and school children also laid floral baskets and bouquets and paid homage before the statues of the president in Pyongyang and local areas.

DPRK Leaders at Flower-Laying Ceremony at Kim Il-song Statue

SK1604032796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0512 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Party and government cadres, workers, soldiers of the People's Army, youth and students, overseas fellow countrymen, and foreign guests laid floral baskets before the statue of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song at Mansudae Hill and paid respects by bowing to the leader [suryongnim] on the morning of 15 April on the occasion of the 84th birthday of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, who is the eternal sun of the nation and a peerless great man. [passage omitted describing the scene at Mansudae Hill]

Placed before the statue of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song was a floral basket from Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and our people, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA]. Lined up near the statue of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song were the colors of the three services of the KPA and honor guards were standing solemnly.

Present on the occasion were guiding cadres of the party and government Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, Comrade Choe Kwang, Comrade Kim Yong-nam, Comrade Kye Ung-tae, Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, Comrade Han Song-yong, Comrade Kim Chol-man, Comrade Choe Tae-pok, Comrade Hong Song-nam, Comrade Choe Yong-nim, Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, Comrade Cho Myong-nok, Comrade Kim Kwang-chin, Comrade Paek Hak-nim, Comrade Yi Ha-il, Comrade Kim Ik-hyon, Comrade Kim Ki-nam, Comrade Hwang Chang-yop, Comrade Kim Chung-nin, Comrade So Kwan-hui, Comrade Kim Yong-sun, Comrade Kim Pok-sin, Comrade Kim Yun-hyok, Comrade Chang Chol, Comrade Yun Ki-pok, Comrade Chon Mun-sop, and Ms. Yu Mi-yong; responsible functionaries of the party, organs of power, administrative and economic organs, and central organs of social organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; officers and men and soldiers of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces; members of the public security; functionaries of the science, education, culture and art, health, and press and publication sectors; workers; and youth and students. [passage omitted on the ceremony to lay floral baskets before Kim Il-song's statue on Mansudae Hill]

DPRK: Thai Party Leader Sends Flowers to Kim Il-song Statue

SK1604051096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Arthit Ourairat [name as received], leader of the Seritham Party of Thailand, sent a floral basket on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The floral basket was laid before the statue of the great leader on Mansu Hill on April 15.

DPRK: Korean Residents in Japan Commemorate Birth of Kim Il-song

SK1604092996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0914 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 14 [date as received] (KNS- KCNA) — A central meeting of Korean residents in Japan was held here on Saturday [13 April] to commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

The participants in the meeting paid the deepest homage to Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

Addressing the meeting, Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), said:

"With the fatherly leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song upheld as the great sun of the nation, the Korean people could build the best socialist system of chuche in the world, open a new age of great national prosperity and development in the country. And our homeland has demonstrated its dignity as a powerful state of independence, self-support and self-reliance in defence and as a socialist country giving hope, confidence and courage to honest- minded peoples of the world."

"The fatherly leader is a patron of life and the benevolent sun, who provided the Korean residents in Japan with honor and worthwhile life as overseas citizens of chuche Korea and led them along the road of victory," he said.

He called for bringing about a definite turn in Chongnyon activities and the movement of Koreans in Japan under the idea and leadership of the respected general Kim Chong-il, true to what the fatherly leader intended in his lifetime.

A letter to Marshal Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting, which was attended by Central Standing Committee Chairman Han Tok-su and other Chongnyon officials and compatriots in Japan.

DPRK: Head of Japan's Kimilsongism Society Interviewed

SK1304040296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0311 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — The great leader President Kim Il-song was the greatest of great men, who performed undying feats for the times and history.

Tsukasa Nakahara, head of a delegation of the Japanese Society for the Study of Kimilsongism, said this in an interview with KCNA.

His visits to Korea made him know well that the strength of building a man-centred socialism is the great attraction of the chuche idea, he said, and continued:

"To me the respected President Kim Il-song was the benefactor of worthy life. The course of my life has taken a new road since I became a follower of the chuche idea.

"Many foreigners with different political views, religious beliefs and skin colors followed President Kim Il-song with infinite reverence as they did their own father. He was a great father of all people.

"Mankind are finding their future road in his great idea and theories. April 15, his birthday, will remain an eternal spring in the hearts of all people."

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Kim Yong-nam Attend Iranian Ambassador's Party

SK1304051396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Iranian Ambassador to Korea Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari gave a party on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Friday [12 April].

Invited to the party were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, and other officials concerned.

The Iranian ambassador said in his speech that "though his excellency the great President Kim Il-song passed away he is immortal in our hearts."

He said that his excellency President Kim Il-song did a great deal for the people in his lifetime. Especially the wonderful West Sea [Yellow Sea] barrage built under the leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il shows the will of the leader and the people, the ambassador added.

"His Excellency Kim Chong-il has always led the DPRK together with his excellency President Kim Il-song", he said, and wished His Excellency Kim Chong-il greater success in his work.

He noted that he will make all efforts to further expand the friendly relations between the two countries, which are developing on a high stage.

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs, said in his speech that the friendship between Korea and Iran is a durable and traditional friendship which is based on intimacy forged long ago between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Iranian leaders and is constantly developing under the deep concern of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. He added that these excellent relations of friendship and cooperation will be strengthened and developed day by day.

"We highly praise the success made by the Iranian people in the work for defending the independence of the country and for achieving a lasting peace and stability in the Persian Gulf area under the leadership of his excellency the respected Islamic leader Khamenei and his excellency the respected President Rafsanjani. We hope that they will achieve greater advance in the future," he said.

DPRK: Leaders Attend Banquet Hosted by Iranian Ambassador

SK1304114796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari, Iranian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, arranged a banquet on 12 March on the occasion of the historic birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Invited to the banquet were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister; Comrade Yang Hyong- sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; and functionaries concerned, including Yi Chol-pong, Paek In-chun, O Yong-pang, Choe U-chin, and Kim Chong-ho.

Ambassador Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari delivered a speech at the banquet. [passage omitted on speeches delivered at the banquet]

DPRK: Chongnyon Central Committee Sends Letter to Kim Chong-il

SK1504060596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0338 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — The great leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received a letter on April 15 from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

Generalissimo Kim Il-song, whom the Korean people acclaimed and held in high esteem for the first time in history of five thousand years, is a rare hero and the greatest of great men who embarked upon the road of revolution at the age of 13 and performed immortal feats for the country and the nation, the world and humankind through his revolutionary activities with the 20th century, the letter says, and goes on:

Respected General Kim Chong-il, you consecrated the Kumsusan Memorial Palace as the supreme temple of chuche and made sure that Generalissimo Kim Il-song is preserved in state for all ages and his exploits shine long down through generations.

You are indeed a symbol of chuche Korea and the destiny and future of all of us.

All the officials of Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan will open a new era of glory advancing under your leadership in the movement of Koreans in Japan, upholding Generalissimo Kim Il-song as the eternal sun of chuche and remaining faithful to you.

We will, with the faith in certain victory, make new achievements in carrying out all the patriotic work of Chongnyon for the prosperity and development of the socialist homeland and national reunification.

The letter wishes Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

DPRK Leaders Attend Event To Mark Kim Il-song's 84th Birthday

SK1504145196 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0657 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This is Pyongyang Indoor Stadium. A central report meeting will take place here on the 84th birthday of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader [widaehan suryong] of our party and our people. [passage omitted on the description of the venue]

Those appearing on the rostrum are Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and vice presidents; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of people's armed forces; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; other cadres of the party, state, and military; responsible functionaries of parties, administrative and economic institutions, social organizations, and social groups; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; heroes; and men of merit. [passage omitted on the proceedings of the report meeting]

DPRK: Leaders Attend KCU Meeting To Mark Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1604040996 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now we will start reporting on a national joint meeting of the Korean Children's Union [KCU] held on the morning of 15 April at Mangyongdae to celebrate the 84th birthday of Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the great leader [widaehan suryong] of our party and our people. [passage omitted describing the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School venue]

Present at the meeting were KCU representatives from different provinces; Pyongyang schoolchildren; education sector functionaries; KCU functionaries; soldiers of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; members of the public security; veterans of the fatherland liberation war; scientists; artists; sportsmen; workers; and parents of students. Overseas fellow countrymen visiting the socialist fatherland were invited to the meeting. Foreign guests were also invited.

Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and party Central Committee secretary; Comrade Paek Hak-nim, vice marshal of the KPA; Comrade Kim Chung- nin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; other functionaries concerned; KCU functionaries; remarkable workers who have made meritorious deeds; and exemplary youth and students, appeared at the rostrum. [passage omitted on the meeting's proceedings]

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Arranges Banquet for Koreans From Japan

SK1604051696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A banquet, arranged by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il for Korean compatriots from Japan on the occasion of the historic birthday of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, was held in Mansudae Theater on 15 April.

Attending the banquet were Comrade Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, and other relevant officials including Kim Su-ui, director-general of the General Bureau for Reception of Overseas Compatriots.

Invited to the banquet were Kim Su-sik, vice chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] who is staying in the socialist fatherland; a delegation of Korean businesswomen in Japan led by Kim Il-sun, chairperson of the Central Executive Committee of the League of Korean Democratic Women in Japan; a delegation of Chongnyon functionaries led by Yi Han-su, deputy director of a department in the Central executive Committee of Chongnyon; a delegation of Korean athletes in Japan led by Paek Chong-won, president of the Association of Korean Athletes in Japan; a delegation of Korean artists in Japan led by So Chang-kak; a visiting group of Korean residents in Japan led by Kim Pom, and other Korean compatriots from Japan.

Comrade Kim Yong-sun made a speech at the banquet. He said that at a time when the people are commemorating the 84th birthday of the respected and beloved leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the everlasting sun of our nation and of mankind, the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il, understanding the feelings of Korean compatriots in Japan who are ardently yearning for the fatherly leader, arranged this benevolent and honorable event.

He stated that the Korean compatriots in Japan will never forget, no matter how long time may elapse, the bright smile and warm bosom of the fatherly leader who gladly received and warmly embraced Chongnyon functionaries and Korean compatriots in Japan each year during the April spring holidays.

He emphasized that the fatherly leader fostered our people into most proud Kim Il-song people and our fatherland into a strong, chuche socialist country displaying its dignity to the whole world. The fatherly leader will be alive forever as the savior of the nation, as the founder of socialist Korea, and as benevolent father.

He pointed out that great ideas, outstanding leadership and lofty humanity of the fatherly leader, have been invariably inherited intact by the great General Kim Chong-il, and that the leaders' blessings, unprecedented in history of the East and West, are the greatest honor of all honors and greatest fortune of all fortunes our people cherish.

He stated that it is outlook on life and noble trait of our people — fighters and disciples of the fatherly leader — to live a valuable life today, not for the sake of today but of the future, by upholding the lofty intentions of the great general.

He said that the Korean residents in Japan should effect a new upsurge in Chongnyon's patriotic work by cherishing unswerving faith that the fatherly leader is always with them forever because they uphold the great general and that the socialist cause and chuche- based movement of the Korean residents in Japan will be ever-victorious and indomitable.

He stressed that Chongnyon functionaries and Korean compatriots in Japan should demonstrate patriotism in the struggle to carry to accomplishment the historic letter and messages from the respected and beloved general by keeping step with majestic march of the people in the fatherland. Thus, they should repay trust and benevolence extended by the general with the fruition of proud patriotism.

Next, Vice Chairman Kim Su-sik made a speech. He stated that the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il extended warm love and benevolence to Chongnyon functionaries and Korean compatriots in Japan on the significant 15 April marking the 84th birthday of the great leader [suryongnim]. For this, their hearts are filled with indescribable emotion and sense of gratitude.

He said that they extend warmest thanks to the respected and beloved general, who is always leading the movement of Korean residents in Japan to victory and honor, together with ardent loyalty. He pointed out that coming to the fatherland this time, they witnessed the heroic indomitable spirit of the people in the fatherland, where the entire party, the whole army and all people are defending the nerve-center of the revolution with their lives in firm unity around the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il, and are advancing the socialist cause — the chuche cause — with the spirit of arduous march. He said that seeing this, their hearts are filled with sense of confidence.

He stated that the portraits of the great leader [suryongnim] wearing a bright broad smile were hung up on the streets in Pyongyang filled with festive mood of 15 April, and a number of people and artists, coming from all over the world, are praising and adoring the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved general. Before this exciting reality, they keenly realized that the leader [suryongnim] is always with us forever.

He emphasized: Keeping step with majestic march of the people in the fatherland who are advancing by upholding the red banner of the revolution under the great general's leadership, we will dedicate everything to consolidating Chongnyon into permanent Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's overseas citizens organization.

The participants in the banquet wished for the eternal life of the respected and beloved leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and toasted for good health and long life of the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il.

Art performance by artists in Pyongyang followed.

DPRK: Anniversary of Kim Il-song's Birth Commemorated Overseas

SK1604101996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0942 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Spelling of names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — The 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song has been commemorated in different countries.

A mass rally took place in New Delhi under the cosponsorship of the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association, the Indian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification and the Asian Regional Committee For Support to Korea's Reunification, and a meeting was held on April 4 by The For Peace and Socialism-The Communist workers' Party of Finland, to mark the birth anniversary.

Addressing the rally, M. Farooqi, member of the Central Executive Committee of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, said:

The immortal exploits performed by Comrade Kim Il-song are most brilliant in human history and his feats for the communist and socialist movement of the world and for global peace will be immortal with the century.

He, the founder of the chuche idea, was a genius of ideology, a genius of creation and construction, a rare military strategist, and the father of the Korean people and the progressives of the world.

The Indian people and the progressives of the world are very pleasant that the cause of chuche started by President Kim Il-song is now being carried forward successfully by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Korean people.

Timo Lahdenmaki, chairman of The For Peace and Socialism-The Communist Workers' Party of Finland, said in his speech at the meeting that the undying feats and the great achievements made by President Kim Il-song will be handed down for ever with history and become a beacon for the world's revolutionary people and communists.

Meanwhile, on this occasion, meetings were held by the Executive Committee of the Russian People's Front for National Salvation, the Russian Free Patriotic Party for "Revival" and the Political Executive Committee of the Kazakhstan Socialist Party. And lectures were given by the Malian Second Group for the Study of Kimilsongism, the Nigeria-DPRK Friendship Association, and at The Dar-es-Salaam College of Commerce in Tanzania.

DPRK: PRC Embassy Officials Lay Flowers at Kim Il-song Statue

SK1604051296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Chinese Ambassador to Korea Qiao Zonghuai and embassy officials laid a floral basket and made bows before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on April 15, his birth anniversary.

Chinese Consul General Zhang Min and consular officials laid a floral basket and Chinese crewmen staying in Chongjin port bouquets before the statue of President Kim Il-song in Chongjin city on April 15.

Chinese floral basket-laying delegations on Sunday laid floral baskets and made bows before the statue of President Kim Il-song in Hyesan city.

DPRK: Foreign Businessmen in Najin Pay Respects to Kim Il-song

SK1604104196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0943 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Foreign businessmen in Najin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone laid bunches of flowers and made bows before the picture of the great leader President Kim Il-song beaming with a sunny smile in Tongmyong-tong Monday [15 April] on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The authority of the zone gave a cocktail party for the businessmen on Sunday.

DPRK: Foreigners Pay Homage to Kim Il-song at Kumsusan Palace

SK1204041896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0348 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Spelling of all names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Foreigners on a visit to Korea called at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the great leader President Kim Il-song lies in state to pay homage to him on Thursday [11 April].

Among them were the visiting group of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Society for Celebrating April 15, Director of the Indian Centre for U.N. Studies M.M. Verma, the delegation of the (Moscow) State University of Russia led by Prof. and Dr. Aleksandr Kovalyov, chairman of the Association of Scientists for the Study of Human Affairs in the Present World, Director General of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea Shuhachi Inoue and the delegation of the Japanese Society for the Study of Kimilsongism led by Tsukasa Nakahara, member of the Permanent Committee of the society.

The visitors made entries in the visitor's book.

J. Tsevelmaa, head of the Mongolian visiting group, wrote:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is alive forever in the hearts of the Mongolian people. We will pray for his eternity regardless of the time and place and actively work to convey his undying exploits to posterity.

Shuhachi Inoue wrote that the undying feats performed by the iron-willed brilliant commander President Kim Il-song, a veteran statesman and great thinker and theoretician matchless in the world, for mankind and history will further shine along with the century.

Thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is creditably carrying forward the revolutionary cause of President Kim Il-song, Korea will remain the country of chuche, he wrote.

Aleksandr Kovalyov wrote that the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song, a great man of profound humanity, will be remembered forever by humankind and that his delegation wishes prosperity to the Korean people working for the completion of the cause of chuche under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Tsukasa Nakahara wrote that President Kim Il-song, who devoted his all to the good of the people throughout his life, would always be in the hearts of mankind.

DPRK: Cambodian, Bulgarian Embassy Staff Visit Kim Il-song Statue

SK1304040196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0316 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Keo Sokha and officials of the Cambodian Embassy and Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Dimitar Dekov [spelling of names as received] and officials of the Bulgarian Embassy here visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill to lay a floral basket and bunches of flowers and pay homage to him on April 12 on the occasion of his birthday, April 15.

DPRK: Nigerian Leader Sends Flowers on Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1204134896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A floral basket came from Sani Abacha, head of state and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, on the occasion of the birthday of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

The floral basket was laid before the statue of President Kim Il- song on Mansu Hill today by Nigerian Ambassador to Korea Olugbenga Ayodeji Ashiru and his embassy officials.

DPRK: Kim Il-song 'Will Be Immortal' Due to Chuche

SK1604102396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0927 GMT 16 Apr 96

["Comrade Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal With Chuche Idea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article titled "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal With the Chuche Idea."

Although the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song passed away, the chuche idea founded by him is tightly gripping the hearts of the Korean people and the progressive humankind and powerfully encouraging the struggle of the popular masses of the present times for independence as the days go by, the article says.

It further says:

Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal with the Korean people, who are advancing with the chuche idea as their lifeline.

They are resolutely fighting with the chuche idea as their eternal lifeline.

It is the unshakable faith and will deeply rooted in the hearts of the Korean people that to defend and glorify the chuche idea is a sole way for their existence and a way of eternal victory and happiness.

With their struggle and life based on the great chuche idea, the Korean people will always be with Comrade Kim Il-song.

He will be immortal with our times which is advancing with the chuche idea.

This idea is a recognised thought of the times. It is an uncheckable trend of the times to espouse and follow the chuche idea.

The number of the countries which adopt the strategy of unity against the moves of the imperialists so as to defend the national dignity and push ahead with the building of a new society through self-reliance is increasing with each passing day. This reality clearly proves that the chuche idea is the eternal guiding idea of our times.

Comrade Kim Il-song will be immortal as there is the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is resolutely defending and successfully carrying forward the chuche idea.

As there is Comrade Kim Chong-il, the chuche idea is demonstrating great might and vitality with the passage of days, deeply engraving the august name and tender image of Comrade Kim Il- song in the minds of our people and the revolutionary peoples of the world.

DPRK Dailies Mark Anniversary of Ties With Palestine

SK1304092296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0801 GMT 13 Apr 96

["30 Years of Friendship and Cooperation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA) — Papers here today dedicate signed articles to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Palestine (April 13, 1966).

The friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have been developed on good terms over last three decades and continued to strengthen and develop in the common struggle for anti- imperialist independence, NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

The Korean people have firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people and this stand remains unchanged.

Today the Palestinian people actively struggle for the complete solution of the Palestinian problem under the leadership of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat.

Our people will wage an active struggle for the victory of the cause of independence against imperialism hand in glove with the Palestinian people as in the past, so in the future, too.

MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people will fully support and encourage the just cause of the Palestinian people for terminating the aggression and interference of outside forces and defending the sovereignty of the country.

DPRK Vice-Premier Chang Chol Meets Japanese Art Delegation

SK1204134496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0957 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Vice- Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol today met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Interchange Society led by its Chairperson Mitsuko Ogasawara on a visit to Korea to participate in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

DPRK: Foreign Artists Perform at Pyongyang Spring Festival

SK1204135896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival is going on at Pyongyang theatres every day, drawing a large number of audience.

The wonderful performances given by foreign artistes in Korea to commemorate the significant April holiday have left great impressions upon the audience.

The participants in the current festival have prepared a lot of songs lauding the great leaders President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

An international concourse prize winner Concepcion Casalso of the Cuban art troupe sang with deep emotion the Korean song "The Leader Comes to the Outpost".

Yuan Chenye of the Chinese art troupe sang "Song of General Kim Il-song", touching the responsive chords in the hearts of the audience.

A Tschaikovsky international concourse prize winner, he said that his colleagues chose the song for him, remembering the great honor of being received by President Kim Il-song during the last festivals.

The Korean song "Nostalgia" performed by the artistes of the Bolshoi Orchestra and the Korean State Symphony Orchestra moved the audience deeply.

The performance was conducted by Murat Kazhulayev, a former Soviet people's actor and senior conductor of the orchestra.

The artistes from Mongolia gave a good representation of "Hymn of Praise to the Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il", a song written and composed by themselves.

A people's actor and Vocal Soloist G. Khaidav sang the song with the feelings of reverence to the acclaim of the audience.

Foreign artistes put on the stage many works on the living of the peoples of their countries.

A performance given by the world-famous Mikhail Gozenko Siberian dance group from Russia gave an excellent representation of the Siberian people's love for their hometowns, customs and national identity.

In particular, the dance "My Siberia" gave a wonderful portrayal of the warm love for hometown with lively rhythmic movements and refined ensemble.

The artistes from Cambodia sang well the song "Phnom Penh" with a graceful and soft tone.

The festival stage was significantly decorated with "Padede" from the ballet "Don Quixote" and performances given by the Malaysian art troupe, the delegation of the Japan-Korea music and art interchange society, the Egyptian national dance group and the Italian art troupe.

DPRK: PRC Cultural Delegation Departs 10 Apr

SK1404100396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Chinese Government cultural delegation headed by Vice Minister of Culture (Li Yuanchao) left by plane yesterday. Kim Yong-sin, vice minister of culture and art, and a counselor of the PRC Embassy in our country saw the delegation off at the airport.

DPRK: Kang Song-san Sends Greetings to New Comoran Prime Minister

SK1504064596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0404 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san sent a message of greetings to Tadjidine Ben Said Massoude [name as received] upon his appointment as prime minister of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros.

The message wished him success in his new work and Comoros prosperity.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Said Omar Said Ahmed [name as received] upon his appointment as minister of foreign affairs, cooperation and foreign trade.

DPRK Daily Congratulates Communist Party of Cuba on Anniversary

SK1604101296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0933 GMT 16 Apr 96

["NODONG SINMUN Congratulates Communist Party of Cuba on 35th Anniversary" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today in an editorial article says that the Korean people warmly congratulate the 35th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Cuba [CPC] and extend the comradely greetings to the Cuban people.

Under the title "Communist Party of Cuba, Vanguard of the Cuban Revolution" the daily says that the CPC foundation was an epochal event in the Cuban people's struggle against domination and subordination and for freedom, liberation and socialism.

The newspaper says:

With the foundation of the CPC the Cuban working class and people could have a true revolutionary party which champions their class and national interests and remains faithful and devoted to the popular masses for the first time in history.

Over the past 35 years the CPC has covered the arduous and glorious course of the struggle for victory of socialist cause, deeply aware its mission and responsibility as a leading political organisation and a vanguard of revolution.

The Cuban people, brothers of the Korean people, are now vigorously advancing along the road chosen by themselves under the leadership of the CPC, undaunted by continuous challenges and blockade by the imperialists.

The resolute stand and new measures have been taken by Cuba to defend sovereignty of the country and socialism.

The CPC is successfully discharging its mission and duty as a political organisation leading the socialist cause by giving priority to ideological work in all work.

Though manifold hardships and trials persist, success is being made in economy, culture and other fields.

All the achievements in Cuba are attributable to the correct line, policies and leadership of the CPC.

The brilliant success the CPC has achieved in socialist construction by leading the people and the might of socialist Cuba are greatly encouraging the revolutionary people in the world and dealing a heavy blow at the imperialists.

The Workers' Party and people of Korea highly praise all the achievements made by the Cuban people under the CPC's leadership and fully support them in their just struggle to defend socialism.

Korea-Cuba friendship has invariably developed and deepened as it has been based on the intimate relations between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution, and on their revolutionary obligation.

The traditional friendship between the two parties and the two peoples will further consolidate and develop in the struggle to accomplish the socialist cause.

The Workers' Party and people of Korea believe that the party and people of Cuba will make greater achievements in revolution and construction.

DPRK Paper Commemorates Independence Day of Syria

SK1604103796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0936 GMT 16 Apr 96

["Independence Day of Syria Observed" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON today dedicates a by-lined article to the 50th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

The paper says the independence of Syria was a historic event of weighty significance in its people's endeavours for an independent development and prosperity of the nation.

The Korean people are extending warm congratulations and greetings to the Syrian people on this occasion, it says, and goes on:

After the independence, the Syrian people have made enormous achievements in the efforts to clear away the aftermath of the colonial rule remaining in different sectors of social life and make the independent development and prosperity of the country.

The Korea people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements made by the Syrian people in building an independent and prosperous, new society under the leadership of president Hafiz al- Asad.

Korea and Syria, both nonaligned countries in Asia, established and have developed ties of friendship, from long ago, in the struggle for independence against imperialism.

Convinced that these relations of friendship and cooperation will as ever strengthen and develop, the Korean people wish the Syrian people greater success in their efforts to achieve territorial integrity and defend the dignity of the Arabs.

DPRK: Chang Chol Meets Egyptian Vice Minister of Culture

SK1504062396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0347 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — Vice- Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol met and had a friendly talk with Vice-Minister of Culture of Egypt Aly Mohamed Aly Shadi [name as received], head of the Egyptian National Dance Troupe, and Abdalla Mourad, head of the Egyptian Circus Group, who are participating in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 14..

On hand were Vice-Minister of Culture and Art Cho Chan-ku and Egyptian Ambassador to Korea Hazem Muhammad Taher.

DPRK, Kazakhstan Hold Friendship Gatherings in Pyongyang

SK1504062496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0349 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — A friendship gathering of members of the Korea-Kazakhstan Friendship Association and the members of the delegation of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison with Foreign Countries and the Kazakhstan-Korea Friendship Association took place in Pyongyang on Sunday.

Present there were the members of the delegation led by Zhibek Amerkhanova [name as received], chairperson of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison with Foreign Countries, Kim Yong-su, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and chairman of the Korea-Kazakhstan Friendship Association, and members of the association.

The participants in the gathering deepened the feelings of friendship, talking with each other.

DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Meets With Kazakhstan Friendship Delegation

SK1604092196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Monday [15 April] met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries and the Kazakhstan-Korea Friendship Association led by Zhibek Amerkhanova [spelling of name as received], chairperson of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop Sends Greetings to Thai Senate President

SK1504072196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0555 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 15 (KCNA) — Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, sent a message of greetings to Meechai Ruchupan upon his reelection as president of the senate of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship forged between the two parliaments will further strengthen and develop in the future, the message wishes the senate president success in his noble and responsible work for the nation's development and prosperity.

DPRK Swimmers Qualify for Summer Olympics

SK1604051196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Yi Ok-nim of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took the title of the women's diving in individual total on April 14 with 1251.00 points at the 5th Asian Swimming Championships held in Thailand.

Another girl of the DPRK Choe Myong-hwa placed third in the women's platform with the total of 498.18 points on April 13.

So, the two are qualified for the 26th summer Olympics.

DPRK: SPA Greets National Council of Sudan Speaker

SK1604055296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA) — Yang Hyong- sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], sent a message of greetings to Hassan Abdulla Al Touraba [name as received] upon his election as speaker of the National Council of the Sudan.

The message expressed the belief that friendly relations between the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the national council of the Republic of the Sudan will develop on good terms in the interests of the two peoples and wished the speaker success in his responsible work.

DPRK Editorial on Kim Chong-il's Revolutionary Elders Work

962C0032A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 24 Dec 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Display the Noble Sense of Moral Obligation Higher and Attain the Socialist Cause Brilliantly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our party and people, revering and upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song forever and ever, are carrying forward the leader's great cause brilliantly. At this significant time when our people are displaying their noble, laudable sense of moral obligation at a new higher level, an immortal classic work by the great leader [yongdoja]

Comrade Kim Chong-il, **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders with Respect Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries,"** has come out.

The work has created a great sensation at home and abroad.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, using a scientific analysis and summation of the long history of our revolution and the communist movement, has clarified for the first time the importance and the great significance of the sense of moral obligation in the succession and attainment of the self-dependence cause of the masses of people, the socialist cause, elucidating a programmatic guiding principle to establish communist moral ethos and develop relationships based on a lofty sense of moral obligation. The work is an immortal library of communist moral construction and a precious ideological, mental weapon for those carrying out revolutions.

The vital spirit which permeates this work is that we should give fuller play to the noble sense of moral obligation and hold aloft, generation after generation, the red flag of revolution that was first hoisted by our revolutionary predecessors and, by doing so, achieve victories of the self-dependence cause of the masses of people, the socialist cause.

The chuche revolution in our country has a 70-year history. In the course of this sacred revolution, many fought—bleeding and sweating, generation after generation—for the freedom of the people, the independence of the fatherland, and the triumph of socialism. It is the immutable will and position of our party and people to treat with respect the older generation of revolutionaries as revolutionary elders, cherish their revolutionary spirit and achievements infinitely, and to faithfully carry forward and further develop the revolutionary cause charted by our predecessors. Fully embodied in the work's overall system and content is this revolutionary spirit and fundamental position. The classic work has charted a new course of communist moral construction, showing a clear-cut path to the attainment of the socialist cause, and the way to hasten the future of mankind successfully, through the enhancement of the noble sense of moral obligation. Herein lies the position the work occupies in history, and its great ideological, theoretical contribution.

The work by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders with Respect Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries,"** is an immortal classic piece of literature that has deepened the socialist theory of chuche and developed it onto a higher plane.

Revolutionary theories reflecting aspirations of the times and people are created and developed and enriched by prominent ideological theoreticians. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, through his energetic ideological and theoretical activity, has creatively solved many theoretical and practical questions in the succession and consummation of the socialist cause charted by the leader [suryong]. The course has been a brilliant one in which the socialist ideology and theory of chuche has been developed and deepened toward perfection.

The work occupies an outstanding position in the development of the socialist theory of chuche. Theoretically generalized in it are the position of communist moral construction in the attainment of the socialist cause, the importance of that construction, and the ways to carry it out, all based on the abundant experiences and achievements which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il had accumulated while leading our revolution over a lengthy period of time. By this work—which newly elucidates the path to the attainment of the socialist cause with its numerous creative theses, profound philosophy, clear-cut logic, and its viewpoint on moral obligation—the socialist theory of chuche has made further developments toward perfection, with its transformative role enhanced extraordinarily. Precisely for that reason, the work has become a monumental work opening a new plane in the ideological development of the working class.

The fact that the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has published **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders with Respect Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries"** is of great theoretical and practical significance in the revolutionary struggle of our people, and in the attainment of the socialist cause.

By elucidating the inevitability of the succession and development of the socialist cause, the work, above all, shows the path to victory of the revolution and the norms of conduct for revolutionaries and the people, fully and clearly.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il points out:

"The socialist cause moves forward to its attainment from generation to generation through the process of the new generation's inheriting and developing the revolutionary achievements of its predecessors."

It is the demand of the revolution and a lofty moral obligation of revolutionaries to treat revolutionary elders with respect. The socialist cause is a historic cause carried on from generation to generation. It moves forward to its attainment through the process of the new generation's inheriting and developing the revolutionary achievements of its predecessors. In this regard, the work offers a powerful demonstration based on historical experiences of our revolution and the world socialist movement.

As it points out, when we treat revolutionary elders with respect, and when we defend and develop their revolutionary achievements, the revolution moves on victoriously; when we abandon them and deny their achievements, it collapses. In former socialist countries, opportunists who took over the party and government committed betrayals by defaming their revolutionary predecessors and denying their achievements. They disgraced communists and soiled the image of socialism. And eventually, the socialist system itself collapsed in those countries.

The work elucidates with iron logic that the matter of attitude toward revolutionary leaders is that toward the revolution, and that it is a crucial matter linked to the destiny of the revolution. Especially, by making it clear that treating revolutionary elders with respect is an inviolable revolutionary obligation for revolutionaries, it enables revolutionaries to launch vigorously into the struggle to carry forward and attain the socialist cause with a genuine view of morality.

For revolutionaries, the highest representative of revolutionary elders is the leader [suryong]; the faithfulness to the leader is the highest expression of moral obligation. For them, to devote all their loyalty to a great leader generation after generation is the basic duty and highest moral obligation. Revolutionaries defend and adhere to the ideology and achievements of the leader resolutely; they carry forward and develop the revolutionary cause of the leader faithfully. Herein lies the true way for them to defend their dignity and honor, and to lead the revolutionary cause to victory. This truth elucidated by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is a scientific and immortal one. By demonstrating it, the work has given the peoples making revolution profound confidence, inspiring them in the struggle to carry forward and attain the revolutionary cause.

Also, by demonstrating the loftiness of the mental and moral features of Korean communists who observe their moral obligations for revolutionary elders to the last, the work brings deep pride and confidence to our people for the revolution they are carrying out.

Our revolution, carving out its creative path to the attainment of the self-dependence cause of the masses under the banner of chuche, has from the beginning created laudable models of the noble sense of moral obligation and continued to add luster to them. The tradition of the communist sense of moral obligation in our country was created in the midst of the anti-Japanese revolution; today, it is inherited and being developed brilliantly under our socialist system centering on the masses of people.

The work shows how highly our people are displaying their sense of moral obligation, by citing real examples, and thereby demonstrates the noble ideological, mental world of Korean communists. It thus explains the chief reason why our revolutionary cause is advancing so triumphantly. Our people revere and uphold the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song with the same pure hearts after his death as they did in his lifetime. No other people in the world are as great as our people, who have the precise and thorough view of the leader and the noble sense of moral obligation, and who uphold the party and the leader with loyalty, generation after generation. Our party and people treat with high respect the revolutionaries who fought for the chuche revolutionary cause under the leadership of the great leader. Also, for historical figures who left their names in our national history, they appraise them fairly and preserve their achievements accordingly. And they treat the leaders [suryong-tul] of the working classes with respect, highly appreciating their achievements. The lofty mental and moral features of our people, unprecedented in history, are something that can be formed and given full play only in the bosom of the party and the leader. By analyzing, with high pride, the mental and moral features of our people, the work powerfully demonstrates that Korean communists are precisely the model of a true revolutionary with the noble sense of moral obligation and that of a true human being, and that our style of socialism centering on the masses of people is overwhelming the capitalist world politico-ideologically, mentally, and morally. The noble mental and moral features of our people will be given fuller play in the future as the revolution moves on.

The work is also an immortal library of communist moral construction synthesizing all ideologies and theories concerning communist morality for the first time in history.

Morals should develop infinitely toward perfection as the revolution moves forward and society develops. The consummation of socialism means, above all, the perfection of man as the master of society. And the moral perfection takes an important place in the perfection of man. In the past, no one had been able to cast light on the question of moral construction, a question linked to the destiny of the socialist cause, as the work was able to do. Casting light on it had been a theoretical and practical task.

In the work, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il fully elucidated, for the first time in history, all theoretical and practical issues involving communist moral construction, including the relationship between senior and junior revolutionaries, the attitude toward the leader who is the highest representative of revolutionary elders, the ethical and moral standards of loyalists, the organic unity between political faith and moral conscience, and the principles and methods of communist moral indoctrination. It perfectly clarified the relationship between the revolution and morality, and that between morality and politics, within an organic unity, thereby opening up broad prospects for the creation of a new human world just and full of love.

In the capitalist world today, morals and ethics are trampled on ruthlessly, and society is in a moral crisis because of immoral, unethical trends. Progressive mankind is aspiring after true morals and ethics. Because of the fact that it has opened the way for the development of modern morals, the work serves as the conscience of the world, and as a living mirror for true human beings. It is a common asset of mankind.

The latest work by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is also a militant banner that deals a heavy blow to maneuvers of socialism's betrayers defaming revolutionary elders and denying their achievements, and enables communists to defend their honor and dignity.

Historically, betrayers of the revolution turned the brunt of their attack against the socialist cause to the leaders of the working classes, and to old-generation revolutionaries. Because of such maneuvers of the modern revisionists and socialism's betrayers, socialism eventually collapsed in many countries, giving way to the restoration of capitalism.

The work has made it clear that the maneuvers of socialism's betrayers were a surrender to imperialists' pressures, the most vicious crime against the revolution, an abandonment of revolutionary integrity, and the most immoral act of trampling on the most basic human morality. It totally condemns the reactionary nature and baneful influence of their immoral acts, showing a clear-cut path to the restoration of communist morality at international levels. Thus, the work is expected to display its great might and vitality in the revolutionary struggle of the world revolutionary peoples for the reconstruction of socialism.

It is indeed an immortal work containing precious ideological and theoretical assets concerning the fundamental principle and inevitability of the attainment of the socialist cause. And it is a revolutionary banner inspiring and spurring communist revolutionaries and peoples to the sacred struggle for the creation of a new world which is just and beautiful and in which communist morality comes into full bloom.

The immortal classic work **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders with Respect Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries"** is the embodiment of the ideology, ideal, and moral features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the highest paragon of communist morals and ethics.

The view of morals entertained by the people carrying out a revolution is, in itself, the view of morals entertained by the leader [yongdoja] who leads them. It is only in a revolution led by a leader who is preeminently great and who is called the paragon of morals and ethics that a firm guiding principle is established of revolutionary moral construction, and that the people come to have noble communist morals and ethics.

It is an iron rule of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il to attach importance to moral standards in the revolution and construction, and to push the revolutionary cause vigorously with the might of morals and ethics.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il — who early on had elucidated for the first time the principle of communist morality, with faithfulness to the leader as its core, based on the immortal chuche ideology—ensured that the history of struggle of our party and revolution is embroidered with glorious annals of our people faithful to their moral obligation for revolutionary elders. It is the great Comrade Kim Chong-il who created the paragon of a loyalist and filial son infinitely revering and upholding the leader, the highest representative of revolutionary elders. It is also Comrade Kim Chong-il who has led the administration to extend lofty benevolence to old-generation revolutionaries and treat them with respect. And it is again our Comrade Kim Chong-il who has sternly condemned socialism's betrayers debasing and defaming communist morals, and who has seen to it that the honor and achievements of the leaders of the world's working classes stay in the peoples' hearts shining endlessly.

Since the death of the fatherly leader, especially, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has devoted himself heart and soul to seeing that the leader is revered forever and ever, and that his ideology and achievements are protected and adhered to steadfastly. The lofty moral and ethical standard of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il for the leader [suryong] represents the highest level of morality a revolutionary can have. It makes our people believe more firmly that they have the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with them forever.

And it inspires them to strengthen their indomitable, revolutionary spirit and will to follow the teachings left by the leader and attain the revolutionary cause to the last.

The latest work precisely conveys the image of the respected and beloved commander in chief [changgunnim] as a great man writing a new page in the history of the lofty communist morals and ethics.

It is because it reflects the lofty moral and ethical world of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, vividly and precisely, that the work is radiating brilliance as the monumental literature of our times captivating the hearts of the peoples.

Today we are confronted with the task to thoroughly implement the content of the work by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders With Respect Is a Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries,"** and thereby to achieve greater victories and progresses in the revolution and construction.

The work is a guiding principle of struggle that makes it possible to achieve a new turnaround not only in morality but in all other areas of the revolution and construction as well. Efforts to embody the ideology and theory set forth in the work constitute a sacred struggle to resolutely protect, defend, and finally attain our revolutionary cause. We should focus on programs to carry through the ideology and theory put forth in the work by the great Comrade Kim Chong-il as the most important task facing our party and revolution in the present period, devoting greatest efforts to it.

We must, first of all, study the work in depth, making the ideology and theory in it part of ourselves.

For a people carrying out a revolution, it is the highest honor to receive and embrace an immortal work by their leader [yongdoja] vibrant with his ideology and will.

Our party members and working people are Comrade Kim Chong-il's warriors and disciples, who have grown under the care of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and who have been carrying out a revolution with the ideology of Comrade Kim Chong-il as nourishment. We must study the latest work by the great Comrade Kim Chong-il fully and in depth, seeing it as the bread of life showing a clear-cut path to eternal life and future struggle. Through the work, all party members and working people should master what ethics and morals revolutionaries should have and how they should live. And they should build the propositions and thoughts elucidated in the work into an unswerving motto for themselves. At the same time, the study of the work should be conducted in a way closely combined with their efforts in real life to bring their moral features to perfection.

We must accomplish thoroughly the tasks to establish the communist moral ethos in the whole society as shown in the work.

To establish the moral ethos of treating revolutionary elders with respect is a permanent undertaking we should press on with as the focus. All party members and the working people should revere and uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song forever and ever, adhere steadfastly to the revolutionary tradition he created, and thoroughly embody the communist moral standards in every part of social life. Especially, we should see to it that new generations—the successors of the revolution and masters of the future—should have their noble moral view and be faithful to the party and the leader to the last.

In studying the work and embodying its content, the most important thing for us is to learn positively from the great communist moral view and lofty moral features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great moral features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il respecting and giving prominence to revolutionary elders have become the object of global admiration and are touching the hearts of the people today. We, through his latest work, feel even more keenly that the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is, precisely, a great revolutionary and a great human being with the sense of ethical obligation toward the leader and revolutionary elders at its loftiest height. All party members and the working people should deepen their understanding of the greatness of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who, as the lofty paragon, is writing the first epic of unprecedentedly lofty morals and ethics in this land. We should learn from the noble features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il precisely as they are—neither adding to nor subtracting from them—to consolidate our society into a crystallization of wholehearted loyalty and filial piety, namely, a replica of the ideology, morality, and endowment of the leader [yongdoja].

In accomplishing thoroughly the tasks shown in the work, it is important to enhance the role of party organizations at all levels.

Party organizations should put the moral indoctrination of party members, working people, and growing new generations at the forefront as a major component of ideological indoctrination, and carry it out in close combination with ideological indoctrination. And they should ensure that all develop communist moral features for themselves through revolutionary organizational life and revolutionary practice. At the same time, each and every person should be aware of, and thoroughly reject, the reactionary nature and baneful influence of the maneuvers of imperialists and opportunists to debase and defame the communist morals.

All party members and working people, let us hold high the classic work by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, **"To Treat Revolutionary Elders with Respect Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries,"** and fight on to kindle a new turnaround in the attainment of the socialist cause.

DPRK: Agricultural Workers Union Chief Praises Party Leadership

962C0042B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 31 Jan 96 p 3

[Article by Choe Song-suk: "Party Leadership Is Vital To Building the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and Its Activities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is the day the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea [UAWPK] was founded 50 years ago.

On this occasion the hearts of all our agricultural workers and UAWPK members are brimming over with nostalgic memories of, and boundless admiration for, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who founded the UAWPK on the basis of the tradition of, and his own experience in, the organization of a revolutionary peasants union which he himself established early on during the struggle, and ever since strived to strengthen and develop the UAWPK into a true chuche- oriented mass political organization.

From the early days when he embarked upon the road of revolution, the great leader presented the policy of building revolutionary mass organizations and planted deep in the soil, in the middle of the fire of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the robust roots of building revolutionary mass organizations. And he founded the UAWPK in keeping with the prevailing situation after liberation and the demands of the developing revolution.

The founding of the UAWPK on 31 January 1946 represented a brilliant fruition of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's unique thought and policy of building mass organizations and a great success our party achieved in the struggle to solidify the mass foundations of the party and fortify the leading force of the revolution.

The founding of the UAWPK opened the way for our party to band the broad masses of agricultural workers together systematically and rally them around the party firmly, and for our agricultural workers to actively contribute to the fulfillment of the revolutionary cause of chuche as an organized force with a unified political organization.

The great leader not only organized the UAWPK but also clearly defined its character and role at each period and in each stage in the development of the revolution and sagaciously led the UAWPK to fulfill its duty as the party's dependable helper and an agent of ideological indoctrination.

In his numerous immortal works, including "On the Key Tasks of the Agricultural Workers Union," the great leader clearly showed the road ahead for the UAWPK and paid careful attention to getting the UAWPK to rally the broad masses of agricultural workers closely around the party and thoroughly implement party lines and policies. It was due to the great leader's outstanding leadership and immense love and trust that the UAWPK was able to continue on the proud road of victory in company with the party, and accomplished its party-assigned tasks with flying colors, in each period and at each stage in the development of the revolution—the post-liberation new-nation building period, the harsh time of the fatherland liberation war, the arduous postwar reconstruction period, and the period of socialist construction.

The work of the UAWPK, which had been exploring a new history of the chuche-oriented peasant movement under the sagacious leadership of the great leader, has elevated itself onto a higher stage of development under the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In keeping with the requirements of the development of revolution in modelling the whole society after the chuche idea, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il defined the duty of the UAWPK, the principles of its activity, the goals of its struggle, and gave comprehensive answers to all fundamental problems arising in the building of the UAWPK, and has led it to effect a revolutionary turnaround in its work.

The thoughts and strategies elucidated by the respected and beloved general—such as the issue of faithfulness to party leadership, with the revolutionary thought of the great leader as the only guiding ideas, being the supreme principle of the UAWPK; implementing the socialist rural thesis ahead of schedule by vigorously waging three revolutions, ideological, technological, and cultural in the countryside; and enhancing the militant function and role of the UAWPK organizations— serve as a very valuable guiding principle as they most accurately define, in keeping with the demands of the revolution in a new stage of development, the fundamental tasks arising in building the UAWPK and in its activities.

In particular, the respected and beloved general published his classic work "On Further Intensifying the Work of the Agricultural Workers Union," comprehensively defining the UAWPK's character, basic duty, and methods of fulfilling it. The publication of this classic gave a a historic momentum to effecting a new upsurge in the work of the UAWPK.

Under the party's wise leadership, the UAWPK has been solidified today as a chuche-oriented mass political organization in which the unitary ideology system of the party is firmly established, and which is boundlessly loyal to the party leadership. The union is also admirably fulfilling its role as a reliable supporter and protector of the party in the struggle to implement party lines and policies.

Now the hearts of all our agricultural workers and UAWPK members are burning with a strong determination to be loyal to the party leadership in the future as welland share the same fate with the party to the end, as they look back, with deep emotion, upon the proud journey of struggle and victory they have pursued these past 50 years under party leadership.

The common faith and determination of all our agricultural workers and UAWPK members are to glorify the UAWPK forever with the leadership achievements of the great leader; strengthen and develop it as a mass political organization of socialist agricultural workers boundless faithful to the cause of our party; and fulfill the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered in the Paektu forests to the end, upholding the lofty desire of the respected and beloved general.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "Our revolution has been victorious under the leadership of our party, and will in the future, as in the past, advance triumphantly and be brilliantly inherited and brought to completion under the party leadership."

The party leadership is vital to the building of the UAWPK and to its activities.

In upholding the thought and leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty lies a firm guarantee for the UAWPK ti fulfill with flying colors, in the future, as in the past, the honorable duty assigned to it, and actively contribute to the fulfillment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

Working the UAWPK into a pure ideological crystal dyed in one color in the revolutionary ideology of our party, the chuche ideology, and into an organized integral whole which moves as one under the party leadership is an important guarantee for forging UAWPK into a militant organization boundlessly loyal to the party.

The UAWPK will, with primary emphasis on establishing the revolutionary view of the leader among its members, continually step up indoctrination in communism among its members—with education in the principles of the chuche ideology, education in the loyalty to the party and the leaders, education in the revolutionary tradition, and education in class character as basics, so that they may give their all, wherever and whenever, for the sake of the party and the leader, the country and the people, and forge the UAWPK into a force capable of continuing to fight doggedly and unflaggingly, sharing the same fate with the party, whatever difficulties and ordeals may confront our revolution.

One of the important ways to fortify the militant power of the UAWPK as transmission belts of the party is to establish within it the monolithic leadership system of the party more thoroughly.

The UAWPK will be able to preserve and glorify forever its revolutionary character as the chuche-oriented mass political organization loyal to the party and fulfill its mission as a dependable supporter and protector of the party, provided that it more thoroughly establishes a strong organizational discipline under which all its members will move as one under the unitary leadership of the respected and beloved general, the revolutionary ethos of accepting and implementing party lines and policies unconditionally, and the revolutionary order and discipline under which the union deals with all problems encountered in its work and activities in accordance with the party's intention. The real key to strengthening the militant power of the UAWPK lies in solidifying its contingent of functionaries, enhancing the functions and roles of its organizations, strengthening the union's organizational life among its ranks, and thoroughly establishing within the union the ethos of implementing the party's decisions and instructions faithfully.

Vigorously to wage three revolutions, ideological, technological, and cultural, in the rural community is the UAWPK's important task set forth by the respected and beloved general. We will solidify the successes made in the prosecution of three revolutions in the past and firmly convert the three-revolution red flag movement in teh masses' own movement by actively drawing agricultural workers and UAWPK members into the movement which is the powerful force behing the three revolutions. By so doing, we will thoroughly implement our party's general line in socialist and communist construction and contribute to realizing the modeling of the whole society after the chuche idea.

Inspiring agricultural workers in the struggle to increase agricultural production is UAWPK's important duty in implementing the great leader's behest, and a basic requirement in thoroughly implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy in the current period.

Doing good farm work and continually increasing agricultural production is the way to improve the people's living standard as instructed in the fatherly leader's last teachings and to vigorously push forward the cause of our style of socialism, crushing the anti-DPRK and antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. In recent years as well, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il gave the UAWPK programmatic guidelines for conducting ideological indoctrination work among agricultural workers in a more substantive manner so that they might play their role as the ones in charge of agricultural production.

UAWPK organizations will be able to put the party's conception of, and intention for, socialist rural construction into reality with flying colors only when it enhances its indoctrinator-organizer-mobilizer function and role of inspiring agricultural workers to implement the party's agricultural policy, in accordance with the instruction given by the respected and beloved general.

The UAWPK should make an active contribution to the implementation of the party's agricultural policy by vigorously conducting ideological indoctrination work among agricultural workers and its members to heighten their awareness as the masters of agricultural production and encourage them to thoroughly implement the chuche farming method.

Upholding the leadership of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, the UAWPK will continue to strengthen its work further—band agricultural workers together closely around the party and effect a new turnaround in socialist rural construction—and thereby fulfill its mission and duty as the party's transmission belt.

South Korea

ROK: Police Heighten Security Because of Clinton Visit

SK1604023896 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have beefed up security to protect American facilities in Seoul from possible attacks by radical students who oppose the U.S. President's visit to Korea.

U.S. President Bill Clinton is scheduled to arrive in Cheju Island for a summit with President Kim Yong-sam today.

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency ordered its local police stations to step up their guard of the U.S. Embassy building or the U.S. Information Service building.

Such a move came after police received a tip that a group of Korean radical college students may possibly stage sits-in at U.S. buildings in the country, police sources said.

Hanchongnyon, a coalition of college students' councils in the nation, earlier announced its plan to stage massive rallies throughout the nation today.

ROK: U.S. President Arrives in Cheju, Greeted by ROK President

SK1604002096 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a report from the special news coverage team at Cheju Island.

U.S. President and Mrs. Clinton arrived at Cheju Island at 0530 [2030 GMT on 15 April] this morning for summit talks with ROK President Kim Yong-sam.

U.S. President and Mrs. Clinton were greeted at Cheju Airport by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong, ROK Ambassador to the United States Pak Kon-u, and other officials, and then arrived in Shilla Hotel in Sogwipo, the venue for the talks, by helicopter. At the front door of the hotel, President and Mrs. Clinton were greeted by President and Mrs. Kim Yong-sam.

Presidents Kim and Clinton will hold a summit this morning and announce the Cheju declaration concerning peace on the Korean peninsula and the ROK-U.S. cooperative system.

The top leaders of the ROK and the United States will hold two rounds of talks, including tete-a-tete talks and expanded talks over lunch, and will agree to display strong joint defense capabilities against North Korea's recent attempts to abrogate the Armistice Agreement and its illegal demonstration of armed forces so that North Korea's miscalculations may be blocked at its source.

The top leaders of the ROK and the United States, in particular, will confirm that the United States will not discuss the issue of turning the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement with North Korea directly, and that the policy on the Korean peninsula should be implemented at the ROK's initiative. The two leaders will announce the Cheju declaration during a joint news conference on their agreement.

Prior to the summit, Presidents Kim and Clinton will jointly take a walk and President Clinton will depart our country this afternoon.

ROK: Kim, Clinton 'Likely' To Propose 4-Way Talks With DPRK

SK1604011996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States have reportedly decided to propose that North and South Korea, the United States and China meet to discuss in detail ways of settling peace on the Korean peninsula.

The proposal is likely to be agreed on in the summit meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton to be held at the Hotel Shilla on this resort island Tuesday morning, informed sources said.

The quadripartite meeting, if held, would pave the way for the two Koreas to directly discuss establishing a peace accord to replace the truce pact that ended the Korean war in 1953, with the United States and China supporting such discussions, they remarked.

This would mark a significant milestone along the path toward establishing a new order on the Korean peninsula, which has been caught up in the cold war since the close of World War II.

After the summit, the two leaders were to issue the "Cheju declaration" which would outline principles separating the proposed inter-Korean peace dialogue from on-going U.S.-North Korea talks aimed at improving relations, among other things.

Kim and Clinton, viewing Pyongyang's recent show of force in the truce village of Panmunjom as a grave challenge to the armistice system, are reportedly determined to apply the principles set forth in the declaration on their future dealings with North Korea, such as inter-Korean dialogue and U.S.-North Korea missile talks.

At the close of the summit, the two leaders are to hold a joint press conference.

ROK-U.S. Presidents Propose 4-Way Talks at Cheju Summit

SK1604053496 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Report by special news coverage team from Cheju — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Clinton held a tete-a-tete summit talk this morning and agreed to propose to North Korea and China what they called four-way talks with a view to reaching a peace agreement on the Korean peninsula. The top leaders of the two countries announced this agreement in the form of a joint declaration during a joint news conference.

In today's declaration, the two countries' top leaders proposed to North Korea and China that North and South Korea — the parties concerned — the United States, and China — the parties related to the Armistice Agreement — participate in four-way talks at the earliest possible date without any preconditions.

At the same time, they explicitly stated that all dialogue concerning peace on the Korean peninsula, including the issue of turning the Armistice Agreement into a peace agreement, would be held between North and South Korea —the parties concerned — under the framework of the four-way talks, and that the United States would not negotiate this issue with North Korea directly.

The two countries' top leaders agreed that in the event that the four-way talks were held, North and South Korea, the United States and China would jointly only participate in the first round of talks, and would affirm their political will for the conclusion of a peace agreement. However, after this, the talks would be advanced in the direction of direct North-South dialogue.

The two leaders also made clear that in the course of the four-way talks, the United States and China would only play the role of facilitators promoting dialogue between the North and the South.

At the same time, they mapped out a detailed plan specifying that the ultimate goal of the four-way talks would be the conclusion of a peace agreement between the North and the South, and for this, measures for easing North-South tensions would be discussed first.

Concerning this, a relevant government official stated that with a view to giving sufficient time for North Korea to review the proposal for the four-way talks and prepare for it, the government unofficially notified North Korea of this a few days ago through Indonesia, while the United States did the same through its own diplomatic channel.

He added that the ROK has been discussing this issue with China for a long time. He also stated that the decision to propose the four-way talks announced at today's talks is designed to lay a reasonable breakthrough for dialogue in the face of North Korea's unreasonable call for the conclusion of an exclusive U.S.-North Korea peace agreement.

In particular, the top leaders of the two countries expressed concern about the possibility that North Korea's recent unreasonable demonstration of armed forces may bring about an unexpected incident. They also agreed to send a strong warning message to North Korea that if North Korea makes any type of provocation, strong and immediate punishment will be made, and thus North Korea may face grave consequences.

ROK: Clinton Pledges Commitment to ROK Security

SK1604040796 Seoul YONHAP in English 0355 GMT 16 Apr 96

[By Hwang Tu-hyong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States on Tuesday proposed convening a four-party meeting of South and North Korea, the United States and China to establish a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

The proposal was made just after a summit meeting between President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton at Soguipo, the southern resort town of Cheju Island.

In a joint announcement, the two presidents proposed that the four parties "initiate a process as soon as possible and without preconditions" aimed at achieving a permanent peace arrangement.

They also agreed that this process also should address a wide range of tension reduction measures.

The two presidents, however, reaffirmed that "the fundamental principle that the establishment of a stable, permanent peace on the Korean peninsula is the task of the Korean people."

They agreed that South and North Korea should take the lead in a renewed search for a permanent peace arrangement, and that separate negotiations between the United States and North Korea on peace-related issues cannot be considered.

President Clinton, in the announcement, pledged that the steadfast U.S. commitment to the security of South Korea and reaffirmed the strength of the South Korea-U.S. security alliance.

Both presidents agreed that the present armistice arrangement should be maintained until it is succeeded by a permanent peace agreement.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the summit meeting, Senior Presidential Secretary for Foreign Affairs and National Security Yu Chong-ha said that Kim and Clinton decided to propose the four-party meeting in an effort to head off the possibility of the North accidently engaging in armed conflicts with the South or misjudging the situation and provoking the South.

Yu noted that the current situation in the North is "very unstable" and South Korea and the United States felt the need to make rules while Clinton is in South Korea.

North Korea recently behaved provocatively in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) while demanding direct talks with the United States without South Korean participation but Seoul and Washington consider such a demand "unrealistic," Yu said.

In that context, Yu said, South Korea hopes the four-way meeting proposal will pave the way for North Korea to adopt a more realistic approach.

"The main purpose of the four-party meeting would be replacing the current armistice treaty with a mechanism for peace and that's why we proposed that the meeting include the very parties involved in the armistice treaty," he said. The United States signed the armistice accord as head of the United Nations command forces in 1953 and China and North Korea were also signatories on the other side.

Yu meanwhile insisted that the four-party meeting should not be interpreted as a cancellation of the long-standing principle that South and North Korea should be the main parties to resolve issues on the Korean peninsula.

"We hope that the first four-party meeting will address political intentions and later rounds will take the form of bilateral meetings between South and North Korea," he said.

South and North Korea will have to reach an agreement during the four-way talks and the United States and China will help the two Koreas reach an agreement, according to Yu.

South Korea has already unofficially informed China of its plan to propose the four-way meeting and Beijing's initial response was that it understood Seoul's efforts to initiate a new peace mechanism.

Beijing, however, failed to show any support for the proposal in the beginning, Yu said, adding that "We cannot see any prospect at the moment that China will accept the offer for a four-party meeting. We will have to wait and see because we just made the proposal officially."

Japan fully supports the proposal, Yu said.

Russia has been promoting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and has already proposed holding a six-party meeting involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia.

"In that sense, we do not believe that Russia will directly oppose the idea of the four-party meeting," he said.

ROK: 'Full Text' of Kim-Clinton Joint Announcement

SK1604034996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0342 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — The following is the full text of a joint announcement made after the summit on Tuesday between South Korean President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton on their "proposal to hold a four- party meeting to promote peace on the Korean peninsula."

1. The President of the Republic of Korea, Kim Yong-sam, and the President of the United States of America, William J. Clinton, held a summit meeting at Cheju Island, Korea on April 16, 1996. They had an in-depth exchange of views regarding the situation on the Korean peninsula and on ways to promote dialogue and peace on the Korean peninsula.

2. President Clinton pledged the steadfast U.S. commitment to the security of the republic of Korea and reaffirmed the strength of the U.S.-Korea security alliance. Both presidents agreed that the present armistice arrangement should be maintained until it is succeeded by a permanent peace agreement.

3. The two presidents expressed their shared desire to foster a stable, permanent peace on the Korean peninsula, where tensions remain high. They agreed to work positively and with an open mind to encourage a process for reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula.

4. The two presidents confirmed the fundamental principle that establishment of a stable, permanent peace on the Korean peninsula is the task of the Korean people. Both presidents agreed that South and North Korea should take the lead in a renewed search for a permanent peace arrangement, and that separate negotiations between the United States and North Korea on peace-related issues cannot be considered.

5. President Kim affirmed the Republic of Korea is willing to meet without preconditions at the governmental level with representatives of the DPRK. President Clinton affirmed that the U.S. is prepared to play an active and cooperative role in support of this effort. Both presidents agreed that China's cooperation would be extremely helpful.

6. Accordingly, the two presidents proposed to convene a four party meeting of representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the United States as soon as possible and without preconditions. The purpose would be to initiate a process aimed at achieving a permanent peace agreement.

7. The two presidents agreed that this peace process also should address a wide range of tension reduction measures.

8. President Clinton praised the republic of Korea initiative as a positive and important step in easing tensions on the Korean peninsula. President Kim acknowledged the importance of continued American support.

ROK Official Expects 'Positive' DPRK Response to 4-Way Talks

SK1604064496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0610 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP) — Deputy Prime Minister and Unification Minister Kwon O-ki said Tuesday that he expects North Korea will give a positive response to the proposed quadripartite talks on security concerns on the Korean peninsula.

"We have not made the proposal with the anticipation that North Korea would reject it," said Kwon, adding, "since the North is also calling for the construction of a peace regime on the peninsula, and that the basic inter-Korean agreement presupposes that the South and North take initiatives for that task, we expect that the North will come to the table."

The Seoul official was speaking to reporters at the South-North Talks Secretariat.

Regarding China's response to the proposal, Kwon said, "We note the press reports that quoted a senior Chinese Foreign Ministry official as saying prospective talks of this nature would be studied in detail."

Kwon indicated that additional rice aid might be used to induce the North into attending the four-nation talks, saying, "You may interpret (the possibility of additional rice aid) in conjunction with a portion of the South Korea-U.S. joint statement reading '... this peace process also should address a wide range of tension reduction measures.'"

He said that the principle requiring the direct North Korea-U.S. dialogue be pursued in conformity and parallel with the improvement of South-North Korean relations will continue to be respected.

On whether the proposed talks might be held in Pyongyang, Kwon said the North Korean capital would not be excluded as a possible venue for the talks.

Referring to Russia's proposal for two plus four' talks on Korean security issues, Kwon said, "To reach the multilateral security system envisaged by Russia, a peace regime should come first."

Talks are now under way with Russia over the proposal, and close consultation with Moscow will be maintained, he added.

ROK: Four-Party Meeting Proposal Said First Discussed in Feb

SK1604072996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0643 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — The four-party meeting proposed by President Kim Yong-sam and President Bill Clinton after their summit here Tuesday was first discussed in February when Clinton's security aide Anthony Lake visited Korea.

To make it appear that his visit was unofficial and in response to an invitation extended by his Seoul counterpart, Yu Chong-ha, Lake went sight-seeing, toured Cheju Island and climbed Mt. Halla with his host.

In reality, however, the two had an in-depth discussion of the possibility of holding a meeting between South and North Korea, China and the United States to discuss ways of establishing a permanent peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula. It was during this discussion that the four-party meeting proposal was formulated.

The discussion progressed even further last month after Clinton's visit to Korea was finally set.

It is worth noting that as soon as the Kim-Clinton summit on Cheju Island was announced, North Korea staged a show of force in the truce village of Panmunjom in an attempt to neutralize the 1953 Armistice Agreement.

The governments of South Korea and the United States reportedly decided to extend the four-party meeting proposal in reaction to the latest North Korean military moves in and around the truce village.

Yu said, "President Kim has been contemplating the creation of a permanent peace regime that would replace the Armistice Agreement, and last year held intensive discussions on the issue with his advisors. The time was not fully ripe for the four-way talks to be promoted in view of uncertainties of the situation on the Korean peninsula and China's roles."

North Korea, in an attempt to seek a way out of its economic crisis, began increasing tensions in the Korean peninsula through shows of force in Panmunjom in an effort to nullify the truce agreement, while demanding that Washington come to one-on-one talks to establish a peace treaty to replace the Armistice Agreement, Yu noted.

Pyongyang's military provocations are by no means of any help when it comes to solving the Korean issue, so the South Korean government is seeking a channel of communication with North Korea that might lead to a peace agreement by promoting the four-party meeting proposal, Yu explained.

When the proposal was first made, the U.S. Government willingly accepted it, saying it was a very good idea. In fact, the U.S. Government accepted the Seoul-drafted proposal without any objection, he added.

Late last week, or a few days before the Cheju summit, the government reportedly informed North Korea of the proposal in advance by way of Indonesia. China, Japan and Russia were also advised of the proposal.

Japan immediately conveyed its support of the proposal, according to Yu.

North Korea's reaction has not yet been made known, and China has made a guarded response, saying it takes note of the proposal and can understand Seoul's motive behind the proposal. Russia, which has offered to hold a six-party meeting on the Korean issue, is known to have made a reserved reaction.

Another official accompanying Kim at the summit said the proposed quadripartite meeting is the only realistic alternative North Korea can adopt in the present situation, adding it is in accordance with the basic South-North agreement on reconciliation and cooperation which calls for the Korean people to resolves issues on the Korean peninsula themselves.

When asked at what level the meeting should take place, he said it would be a matter for the four nations to discuss in the future. The important thing is that the meeting, if held, would commit the four nations to the process of creating a lasting peace agreement for the Korean peninsula, he added.

South and North Korea would play the leading roles in the process of establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula, with the United States and China assuming supportive roles and helping reduce tensions.

The United States will not hold separate negotiations with North Korea regarding peace on the Korean peninsula, as before, and this means that Washington will not block channels of communication with Pyongyang but invites Pyongyang to begin the dialogue in the context of a four-party meeting, the official remarked.

The eventual goal of the quadripartite meeting, if held, would be to sign a peace treaty and it would be necessary to deal with a wide range of tension reduction measures to achieve that final objective.

Yu said if North Korea continued militarily violating the Armistice Agreement in spite of the proposal, Seoul and Washington will take immediate and decisive action.

President Clinton warned that any increased tensions due to North Korean misjudgements or provocations could bring about grave consequences.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam: Four-Way Meeting 'Last Choice' for DPRK

SK1604074096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0655 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday he thinks the four-way meeting he and U.S. President Bill Clinton proposed Tuesday would be "the last choice North Korea can have."

"We did not make the four-party meeting proposal expecting North Korea to respond immediately the same day," he added, speaking at a joint press conference following an hour-long summit here on this resort island.

President Clinton made it clear that the U.S. Government will not hold separate negotiations with North Korea on Korean peace issues, such as the Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean war in 1953, Kim said.

President Clinton, meanwhile, said achieving peace on the Korean peninsula is the responsibility of the Korean people, both South and North Korea, adding that the U.S. Government will help facilitate a process leading to such a peace.

Washington will not hold separate peace negotiations with Pyongyang, he stressed.

Clinton warned that violating the Armistice Agreement would increase the danger of an accident, a mistake or a miscalculation which could bring about grave consequences.

The Armistice Agreement must be maintained until a peace treaty is concluded, the U.S. President stressed.

He said the four-party meeting proposal was the result of President Kim's leadership and effort, adding the proposed meeting would take place if Washington and Seoul continued their joint efforts to create peace on the Korean peninsula, while closely watching North Korea's movements on the basis of their firm alliance.

Clinton said the proposal stemming from President Kim's efforts was not intended to get an immediate response from North Korea, but was instead to make a significant step forward toward lasting peace on the Korean peninsula in the long run.

He added he welcomes China's participation in the proposed meeting.

Kim revealed he had informed Chinese President Jiang Zemin of the proposal, adding he had also advised North Korea of it last Sunday.

ROK Dailies View Significance of ROK-U.S. Summit in Cheju

SK1604091596

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials and articles carried by Seoul vernacular morning dailies on 16 April commenting on the ROK-U.S. summit meeting planned for 16 April and on the planned "Cheju Declaration" to be issued following the summit outlining the principles separating the proposed inter-Korean peace dialogue from the on-going U.S.-North Korea talks aimed at improving relations.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Our Expectations of the ROK-U.S. Summit." The editorial emphasizes the importance of holding the summit at a time when "military tensions are heightened along the DMZ" and "neighboring countries are showing signs of change in their relations with North Korea." Noting that the situation developing in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula is "crucial to deciding the destiny of our future," the editorial stresses the need to utilize this summit to solve inter-Korean issues by linking the talks with the complex situations surrounding the Korean peninsula. Noting that separating the proposed inter-Korean peace dialogue from the U.S.-North Korea talks is "virtually the same as saying the United States will assume an independent stance in its dialogue with North

Korea," the editorial voices concern over "the possibility of excluding the ROK" in resolving issues on the Korean peninsula.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 3 a 700-word editorial entitled "Things That Need To Be Confirmed by the ROK-U.S. Summit." The editorial comments that President Clinton's summit with President Kim Yong-sam is a "timely opportunity to reaffirm a strong mutual military alliance and cooperative system that will serve as a strong warning to North Korea." However, the editorial calls attention to the fact the Kim-Clinton summit may "mark a turning point in the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula." Predicting the United States and Japan will facilitate their contacts with North Korea following the end of the parliamentary elections in the ROK, the editorial urges the ROK Government to prepare against the possibility that the United States will handle issues on the Korean peninsula "under the frame of its newly-devised strategy for Northeast Asia."

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 2 a 1,000-word article by Kim Chang-ki entitled "The Background Behind the Declaration of 'The Three-Point Principles' at the ROK-U.S. Summit." The article notes that Seoul and Washington have attempted to affirm "the three-point principles," whose contents carry "nothing new in essence," in order to "send a strong message to North Korea." The article analyzes that the three-point principles are also aimed at "reassuring the ROK people" that "the issue of signing a peace agreement should be discussed only between the two Koreas," and that "the United States will never bypass the ROK as regards this matter." However, the article shows concern over the fact that the United States may "stealthily include the issue of the Korean peninsula in its dialogue agenda with North Korea on U.S.-North Korean issues which have no relation to the peace system or to the reunification of the peninsula," or that the United States may become too close to North Korea without considering "the progress of inter-Korean dialogue."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 900-word article by Chang Yon-chol entitled "The ROK-U.S. Summit on Cheju Island." The article writes that, through the announcement of the planned "Cheju declaration," the ROK Government will "approve official dialogue" between Washington and Pyongyang. Recalling that the ROK was sometimes at odds with the United States over North Korea, the article writes that "the Cheju declaration" serves as a momentum to "close the gap between their views" over U.S.-North Korea relations. The article continues, stating that through the declaration the United States will tolerate "the ROK's initiatives for security on Korean peninsula," and in return will be ensured of freer dialogue with North Korea. The article foresees that the activated dialogue between North Korea and the United States will influence Japan, which has carried out secret contacts with North Korea, to resume dialogue. The article also predicts the declaration will "curb any accidental collisions for the immediate term" and will "induce North Korea to open up and engage in inter-Korean dialogue for the long run."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 900-word article by Kim Chong-ku. The paper writes that the "Cheju declaration" signifies "the ROK renews its upright stance regarding North Korea-U.S. contacts and gives greater initiative to the United States." The article predicts "the United States will be unencumbered in pushing ahead with its negotiations with North Korea on missiles and the return of the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean war." It adds that "the ROK Government's change of heart stems from the realistic notion that contact between the United States and North Korea can no longer be prevented." The article notes that the ROK has felt the need to embrace Pyongyang for the sake of peace and stability. Positively evaluating the declaration since it will contribute to "normalizing North Korea's contacts with the United States and Japan," the article concludes that the declaration will provide the momentum to bring North Korea into dialogue and to open up by vitalizing North Korea-U.S. contacts, to improve inter-Korean relations, and to settle the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula.

ROK: Analysis of U.S.-ROK 'New Rule' for Dealing With DPRK

SK1604103296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 16 Apr 96

["Analysis" by Hwang Tu-hyong: "Korea, U.S. Set a New Rule of Game in Dealing With Pyongyang" — YONHAP headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 16 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States made a new rule for dealing with North Korea Tuesday when they proposed a four-party meeting among South and North Korea, the United States and China to establish a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula to replace the current armistice treaty.

The proposal is considered a turning point in Seoul's policy toward the North in that it previously maintained that any issues involving the Korean peninsula should be settled through direct talks between Seoul and Pyongyang.

The long-cherished position of South Korea, however, has been strongly challenged since the United States began holding limited but direct discussions with North Korea about its suspected nuclear weapons program. In one way or another, Pyongyang has maintained contact with Washington, which concerns Seoul.

The recent direct contacts between Washington and Pyongyang on repatriation of American servicemen listed missing in the Korean war and America's concern about the possibility of North Korea exporting its missile technology to countries in the Middle East, has even spawned speculation that the bilateral and cooperative relationship between Seoul and Washington when dealing with the North must have somehow been undermined.

In an apparent bid to test such speculation, North Korea sent armed troops into the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in violation of the armistice treaty which has maintained peace and stability on the Korean peninsula for the past four decades.

To maximize the effects of the provocations, the North violated the DMZ just days before the parliamentary elections in the South.

Reports have said the North's DMZ violation is not an accident but a meticulously calculated act.

The North's calculations and provocations only helped Seoul and Washington solidify their military alliance, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Clinton did not intend to visit South Korea when he originally planned his tour of Japan and Russia, but at the last minute decided to include Cheju Island on his itinerary, and extend his stay there by hours after the North dispatched armed troops to the DMZ, according to the officials.

"When Clinton did not include South Korea on his itinerary he must have sent the wrong signal to North Korea in terms of Washington's commitment to defend South Korea against any military provocations from the North," they said.

While in Cheju, Clinton demonstrated his strong commitment to defense of South Korea.

In return, Clinton was rewarded when President Kim proposed the four-party meeting. The quadripartite meeting formally allows the United States to get freed from pressure from the South on Washington's contacts with Pyongyang and permits the United States to engage in talks with North Korea.

In that sense, analysts say that the four-party meeting means South Korea formally abandoned its long-standing position of solving the Korean issue through direct contact with the North, although Foreign Ministry officials denied that.

Analysts, however, say that Seoul can no longer stick to the hardline position when dealing with the North because of the changing circumstances facing the country.

They also insist that the principle of "harmony and parallelism," which means that any improvement in Pyongyang-Washington relations must be accompanied by an improvement in inter-Korean relations, will not result in a "soft landing" for a regime facing severe economic problems.

It's not certain, however, at the moment whether the new Seoul initiative will succeed in bringing Pyongyang to the negotiation table.

The most important part of the process is the will of the Pyongyang regime.

South Korea proposed the four-party meeting to North Korea days earlier through Indonesian intermediaries, the chair-country of the non-aligned movement which maintains close ties with the North, but did not receive an immediate response, according to officials.

The ball is now in North Korea's court.

China could also block the new Seoul initiative.

Seoul has not yet received China's full support for the four-way meeting, although China would be directly involved.

ROK: High-Ranking DPRK Officials Intend To Visit U.S. in Apr

SK1504111996 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 15 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Washington correspondent Chong Yon-chu]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 14 April that high- ranking North Korean officials will visit the United States one after another to attend various meetings.

According to sources, a four-man delegation is scheduled to visit Washington on 19 April at the invitation of the Sigur East Asia Institute of George Washington University. The delegation includes Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the North Korean Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, and Pak Sok-kyun, vice director of the Americas Department within the Foreign Ministry.

Seven North Korean officials and scholars, including Yi Chong- hyok, vice chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, which is a point of contact with the outside world, and Pak Song-tok, director of the Chuche Idea Institute, plan to attend a seminar to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on 24 April sponsored by the North American Christian Association. They will also visit Los Angeles and Washington.

A three-man delegation that includes a student representative and an official from Kim Il-song University is scheduled to participate in a South-North reunification symposium to be held at Berkeley University in California for one week beginning 27 April. It has also been learned that a North Korean delegation composed of three to four people, including Yi Kun, head of a section of the Foreign Ministry, plans to visit the United States in early June at the invitation of the East Asia Institute (director Professor John Lewis) of Stanford University.

In addition, a delegation composed of seven people, including Kim Pyong-hong, director of North Korea's Disarmament and Peace Institute, and Pak Sok-kyun, vice director of the Americas Department within the Foreign Ministry, is scheduled to visit the United States to attend a second round of talks on the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers, which is slated for around 22 April.

ROK: U.S. President Leaves ROK for Japan 16 Apr

SK1604072396 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0700 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Report by special news coverage team from Cheju Island — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Clinton left the ROK this afternoon for Japan after holding the ROK-U.S. summit with President Kim Yong-sam.

U.S. President Clinton and President Kim held an expanded summit over lunch this afternoon and after this, President Clinton left for Japan for a 4-day visit.

Following his visit to Japan, President Clinton will visit Russia on 18 April.

ROK: Kong Meets Perry, Shows 'Concern' Over U.S.-Japan Alliance

SK1604045896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0411 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong, U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry agreed Tuesday that South Korea and the United States would try to expedite the conclusion of talks revising the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which defines legal status of American servicemen in South Korea.

In a meeting held just prior to the summit between President Kim Yong-sam and his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton on Cheju Island, Kong and the two American officials reaffirmed the need to conclude the SOFA talks as soon as possible.

Kong and Perry had agreed last November to conclude the talks by the end of January, according to a Foreign Ministry official.

They failed, however, to come up with ways to put final touches on the SOFA revision talks, simply agreeing to let working-level officials finish them, the official said.

Responses from neighboring countries to the proposal for a four- nation summit to discuss a peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula, proposed by Seoul and Washington at the end of the Kim-Clinton meeting, were also examined at the talks.

The ministers also discussed the agenda, venue and timing of the proposed meeting under the presumption that North Korea would attend, the official said.

It was also agreed that a meeting of deputy ministers from Seoul, Washington and Tokyo would be held in Cheju on May 13 to discuss developments after the proposal for the four-party meeting.

They also discussed the impact of a new joint defense declaration of Northeast Asia by the United States and Japan, which will be announced Wednesday during the scheduled summit between Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Kong, however, expressed concern that Tokyo's expanded military role would not be good for stability in Northeast Asia.

ROK, U.S. Firms Vying for Inchon Airport Biddings

SK1604052796 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Biddings have been cast to build and operate cargo terminals and an aircraft fuel station at the Inchon International Airport, transportation authorities said yesterday.

Korea's two rival airline companies Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, are expected to each win one of the two terminals being reserved exclusively for Korean carriers. But competing for the foreign cargo terminal project are three consortia led by Asiana Airlines and freight carriers Air Korea and Ogden Air Pacific Service Inc.

Air Korea specializes in international air freight service and Ogden, a U.S. service firm, specializes in airport facilities.

"We expect to announce successful bidders by June," said an official at the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

The ministry closed bidding entries last week for the terminal project, the fuel station and also a 116-megawatt power station to be built within the airport. Each of the three projects is worth about 945 billion won ($121 million).

Competition for the fuel station project are two consortia, each led by Asiana Airlines and Honam Oil Refinery Co.

Ogden is in the LG consortium for the power station project. Also vying for the power station project are two other consortia led by the construction and other subsidiaries of the Kumho and Hanjin business groups.

ROK: Russian Deputy Prime Minister on DPRK Visit

SK1504144096 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 15 Apr 96 p 8

["Exclusive interview" with Vitaliy Ignatenko, deputy prime minister of Russia, by Hwang Song-chun, CHOSON ILBO's Moscow-based correspondent, on 13 April; place not given — first paragraph is CHOSON ILBO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview on 13 April with CHOSON ILBO, Vitaliy Ignatenko, deputy prime minister of Russia, said the North Korean leadership constantly talked about the inevitability of war, and that his party had great difficulties in persuading the North Korean leaders against war. Concerning North Korea's claim about the inevitability of war, Ignatenko stated he pointed out to North Korea that "neither Russia nor the PRC supports this," expressing a resolute position, and that this position helped persuade North Korea to a considerable extent. Ignatenko led a Russian delegation to attend the first conference of the Russia-DPRK Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation Committee held in Pyongyang from 10 to 12 April. Ignatenko met with key officials of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], including Vice President Yi Chong-ok, concerning North Korea's call for the abrogation of the Armistice Agreement, and discussed the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula. The interview with Deputy Prime Minister Ignatenko follows.

[Hwang] You said the North Korean leadership constantly talked about the inevitability of war. Do you think this means North Korea has decided on war? Did you see any indications in Pyongyang of war?

[Ignatenko] The North Korean leaders I met constantly talked about the inevitability of war. In particular, in private gatherings they stressed "there is no other way but war," thus showing their will to fight. The North Korean leadership seemed to be feeling a sense of isolation, and that it should be resolved even by war. However, it is somewhat unreasonable to interpret that they have actually decided to wage war. The expression of their will appears to have some propaganda purpose. Many soldiers were seen on the streets in Pyongyang; other than this, we did not see any particular indications for war. Concerning the number of soldiers, North Korea said they were mobilized for construction sites and had no particular purpose. In other words, even in ordinary times, one can find such a number of soldiers.

[Hwang] Then what is the possibility of war on the Korean peninsula?

[Ignatenko] I would like to say, first, that our current visit to Pyongyang was very successful and timely. Many expressed doubts as to Russia's role on the Korean peninsula. However, this was proven untrue during our recent Pyongyang visit. We informed North Korea of our strong position that heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula were directly related to Russia's security, and although the Armistice Agreement has problems, it should be observed since there is no other agreement to replace it. We also stressed that the PRC holds a position similar to that of Russia.

[Hwang] According to foreign news reports, North Korea opposed mediation by Russia and the United Nations. It only wants direct negotiations with the United States.

[Ignatenko] Russia called for convening an international conference in which all countries directly involved in the situation on the Korean peninsula would participate. Such multilateral negotiations reflect the basic position of the Russian Government toward the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula. We feel that North Korea's intention to hold dialogue only with the United States is unrealistic. Needless to say, at first North Korea disagreed. However, as dialogue progressed, North Korea seemed to waver. Vice President Yi Chong-ok was armed with outdated communist dogma. However, he was not completely ignorant of the international situation. He seemed to have realized that with their assertions to abrogate the Armistice Agreement, his country is being further isolated from the international community.

[Hwang] Do you mean your latest visit to Pyongyang has greatly contributed to peace on the Korean peninsula?

[Ignatenko] Yes. Some feel Russia cannot exercise a strong influence on North Korea. However, North Korea carefully listened to our positions. Let me take this opportunity to comment on some ROK people's jaundiced view on improved Russia-North Korea relations. Improved Russia-North Korea relations would be favorable to peace on the Korean peninsula, and eventually would be beneficial to the ROK.

[Hwang] The problem is to what extent Russia will improve relations with North Korea.

[Ignatenko] Of course, a military alliance like the one that existed in the past is impossible. However, it is necessary to upgrade the extent of our cooperation in the economic, cultural, and scientific and technological fields to the same level of cooperation between the Soviet Union and North Korea. Russia-North Korea relations have been extremely weakened. The volume of trade between Russia and North Korea is $100 million, a mere third of the volume of North-South trade. We need to have more contact with North Korea in order to bring it into the international community. Russia and North Korea discussed the signing of a Russia-North Korea basic agreement that will replace the Soviet-DPRK friendship treaty, the abolition of which Moscow declared last September. The North Koreans were saucy at first. However, when we proposed concrete plans for economic cooperation, they began to show interest.

[Hwang] The main theme of your visit to Pyongyang was economic cooperation. What results were yielded?

[Ignatenko] North Korea's debt to Russia totals 3.3 billion hard currency rubles (rubles used in the past for international settlements; one ruble equals $1.6). We discussed this matter extensively. Of course, it will not be easily resolved. We also discussed the resumption of operations of the approximately 70 plants built by the Soviet Union. Almost all of them have ceased to operate due to shortages of parts and poor maintenance. North Korea hoped Russia would extend cooperation to ensure these plants resume operation; we agreed. We also discussed Russia-North Korea railway transportation, logging in Siberia, and the Najin-Sonbong Special Economic Zone. I would like to again stress that the latest meeting was merely the "first round." This is the first meeting between Russian and North Korean vice prime ministers following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Small rivers make a sea, do they not?

[Hwang] What is the North Korean economic situation?

[Ignatenko] I cannot know its full extent from a three-day visit. However, North Korea made many preparations for the meeting, and through dialogue with North Korea, we were able to ascertain that North Korea's economy is in a "crisis."

[Hwang] Is the economy facing difficulties or is it in a crisis?

[Ignatenko] It is in a crisis. Even North Koreans admit their economy is in a crisis. Though somewhat shyly, North Korean economic officials said their economy would not be revived without economic assistance from the international community. They also stressed the damage from last year's floods. In one corner of a clean street, we witnessed shelves without groceries. North Koreans said there were few cars on the streets because of their concern about the environment. Whatever the case may be, the North Korean economy is in a crisis. Nevertheless, we think it is too early to tell if the North Korean economy is on the verge of collapse.

[Hwang] What is the difference between being in a crisis and being on the verge of collapse?

[Ignatenko] There are no opponents in North Korea, and North Korea is a society well organized "to a cruel extent." It is too early to predict North Korea's collapse based on the economic difficulties it faces.

[Hwang] We heard President Yeltsin sent a personal letter to Kim Chong-il. How did he refer to Kim Chong-il? What did he say in the letter?

[Ignatenko] The letter was addressed to Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. The main point of the letter was that Russia hopes for the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula, and that North Korea must abide by the Armistice Agreement for the sake of peace. Officially, Kim Chong-il is neither president nor general secretary of the WPK. We saw portraits of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, both of which were of the same size, hung in every office in North Korea. This is just like the portraits of Stalin which were hung by the portraits of Lenin after Stalin's death. We got the impression that Kim Chong-il will be sworn in as president before the end of the year.

[Hwang] Did you notice any special signs?

[Ignatenko] No. I reached this conclusion based on Russian Government analyses and my own personal impressions.

[Hwang] Did Kim Chong-il reply to President Yeltsin? When the Soviet collapsed in 1991, North Korea called President Yeltsin a "traitor to socialism." North Korea has no favorable opinion of Yeltsin. In addition, North

Korea expects Zyuganov, president of the Communist Party, to win in the presidential elections in June.

[Ignatenko] Kim Chong-il's message "wishing President Yeltsin good health" was read at a party the WPK Central Committee hosted on the last day of our visit, and a toast was given to President Yeltsin. However, we did not receive any letter of reply.

[Hwang] Why did you not meet Kim Chong-il?

[Ignatenko] We think that is regrettable. North Koreans told us that Kim Chong-il could not meet us because he was on a business trip to a regional area. Kim Chong-il did not appear at a party hosted by the WPK Central Committee either, though we expected he would.

[Hwang] How were the streets of Pyongyang?

[Ignatenko] We stayed at a state guest house along the Taedong River. We could see North Korean children wearing red ties on the streets. With their innocent faces, they looked no different from the children I met when I visited the ROK. My heart aches when I think that a war crisis prevails because of the wrongful acts of adults.

[Hwang] Do you have anything more to say?

[Ignatenko] Stability on the Korean peninsula is directly in the interests of Russia. Russia wants peace on the Korean peninsula, and is willing to work as a mediator between North and South Korea if needs be. I would like to stress that improved Russia-North Korea relations would eventually be beneficial to the ROK's interests.

ROK Daily Profiles Major DPRK Military Leaders

SK1604124096 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 15 Apr 96 p 6

[Article by Yi Tae-kun; first paragraph is editor's note]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea has dealt with the internal and external difficulties that emerged following the death of Kim Il-song by establishing a military-oriented crisis management system. Taking advantage of North Korea's current political situation and the military's enormous physical strength, the military has emerged as the strongest power group in North Korea. In the wake of North Korea's recent show of force in the DMZ, the following analyzes the command system within the North Korean military, which is causing tension on the Korean peninsula, and surmises who are the leaders within North Korea's military.

The real power that controls the North Korean military is the members of the National Defense Commission and the party's Central Military Commission.

The 14-member Central Military Commission includes Kim Chong-il, Choe Kwang, Paek Hak-nim, Yi Ul-sol, Yi Tu-ik, Kim Tu-nam, Yi Ha-il, Kim Ik-hyon, Cho Myong-nok, Kim Ik-chol, Yi Pong-won, O Yong-pang, and Kim Ha-kyu [only 13 names as published]. The eight-member National Defense Commission includes Kim Chong-il (chairman), Choe Kwang (vice chairman), Chon Pyong-ho, Kim Chol-man, Yi Ul-sol, Kim Pong-yul, Kim Kwang-chin, and Yi Ha-il.

Kim Chong-il, Choe Kwang, Yi Ul-sol, Kim Kwang-chin, and Yi Ha-il hold seats on both commissions, and thus are considered the most powerful leaders in the military. Members of the two commissions not only hold posts in other party committees, but also hold posts within the party, the Administration Council, military departments, and the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. By holding two to three important posts, they form the core military elite.

Choe Kwang, Yi Ul-sol, Yi Tu-ik, Paek Hak-nim, and Kim Ik-hyon are among the first-generation of the revolution that joined Kim Il- song's anti-Japanese guerrilla activities. They head various organizations and are considered mental pillars. The others are from the second-generation of the revolution, and are now working- level chiefs.

The first-generation revolutionaries are in their 70's and sometimes lack mobility. The second-generation revolutionaries are in their 60's and work on actual military strategies and logistics. They also serve as military advisers to Kim Chong-il. They are the rising stars who possess control over the military.

The current top North Korean military leader, in name and reality, is Marshal Choe Kwang, 78, who was one of Kim Il-song's guerrillas. Presently minister of the People's Armed Forces, Choe Kwang has shown the highest loyalty to Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

He was purged in 1969 while chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA] because he was less active in supporting the unitary leadership system. He worked as a miner following the purge, but did not lose his loyalty toward Kim Il-song. Thirteen years later, in 1982, he was reinstated as vice premier of the Administration Council. In 1988, he was promoted to chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, earning himself the nickname "tumbler."

Kim Chol-man, 78, chairman of the Second Economic Committee in charge of logistics production, a candidate member of the party Political Bureau, and a member of the National Defense Commission, was a member of Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese boy guerrillas. He is a soldier with good political sense, and one who made a decisive contribution to supporting Kim Chong-il as the successor. Kim Chong-il has great confidence in him.

Vice Marshal Yi Ha-il, 61, is director of the party's Military Department, which is a standing organization of the Central Military Commission. He is also a member of the Central Military Commission as well as the younger group wielding real power. Among the three reporting channels to Kim Chong-il—the party, the administration, and the military—Yi is in charge of the military. He played a most important role in helping Kim Chong-il win control over the military by supporting Kim as the supreme commander of the KPA.

Kim Kwang-chin, 69, first vice minister of the People's Armed Forces who led the recent incidents that created military tensions on the Korean peninsula, is a key military leader absolutely trusted by Kim Chong-il. At the memorial service for Kim Il-song held on 20 July, 1994, he read the memorial speech on behalf of the military, displaying himself as one of the closest to Kim Chong-il. A cousin of Kim Il-song, he was also a delegate to the North-South high-level talks and was the North's chairman to the North-South Joint Military Council.

O Kuk-yol, 63, is a behind-the-scenes power who ranks first among the next-generation of military leaders. He was appointed chairman of the KPA Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1979, and director of the party's Operations Department in 1989. The party's Operations Department is in charge of operations against the ROK. Its six liaison offices are responsible for escorting spies to the ROK and various terrorist attacks. O was once named as one of "the three military powers," along with Choe Kwang and Kim Kwang-chin. He is also the number one candidate to become the next minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Chon Pyong-ho, 70, party secretary in charge of logistics, is also a member of the party's Political Bureau and the National Defense Commission, as well as the director of the party's Second Economic Department. He is a leader who controls both the military and the economy. He experienced the best elite courses in North Korea at the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kim Il-song University, as well as in Moscow University.

Paek Hak-nim, 79, is a revolutionary senior who is the minister of public security, the South Korean equivalent of the director of the National Police Agency, as well as a member of the party's Central Military Commission. Currently a vice marshal, he is from the guerrilla generation and has no educational background, but is a key player in maintaining the regime in his post as inspector for the military and the government.

Chon Mun-sop, 76, chairman of the State Inspection Committee and a general, was the director of the General Bureau of Escort and vice minister of the People's Armed Forces due to his background as the messenger and bodyguard of Kim Il-song during the anti-Japanese guerrilla years. He is one of the policy makers within North Korea's armed forces.

Kim Yong-chun, the emerging chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is also a noteworthy figure.

Also emerging as second-generation military leaders of the Kim Chong-il era are General Kim Myong-kuk, Kim Chong-il's secretary in charge of military affairs; Won Ung-hui, commander of the 15 April Mechanization Corps; Pak Chae-kyong, deputy director of the KPA General Political Bureau; Kim Ik-chol, commander-in-chief of the Navy; and Cho Myong-nok, director of the General Political Bureau.

In 1968 Colonel General Kim Kang-hwan, 62, was promoted to major general at the age of 38 because his father took care of Kim Il- song's grandparents Kim Po-hyon and Yi Po-ik; his speedy promotion made him director of the party's Military Department in 1985. Colonel General Han Hyong-ok, 68, director of the Security Department of the People's Armed Forces Ministry, is also a noteworthy figure. He was North Korea's senior member to the Military Armistice Commission in 1970, the director of the Political Security Department in 1979, and was promoted to colonel general in 1992, which means he has the full confidence of Kim Chong-il.

ROK: WPK Mission Likely To Visit Japan in May at SDP Invitation

SK1504125496 Seoul YONHAP in English
1240 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 15 (YONHAP) — A North Korean Workers' (Communist) Party [WPK] delegation is expected to visit Japan in the middle of next month at the invitation of the Japan social Democratic Party (SDP).

The Japanese party which is in friendly relations with the workers' party decided Monday to see to it that a North Korean party delegation will visit Tokyo in mid-May though the delegation wishes to make the visit this month.

Kanju Sato, SDP secretary-general, met his party's international bureau chief and agreed to readjust the visit time to make it after Japan's "golden holidays" in early May.

The suggested postponement is because a delegation of the Japanese coalition ruling parties is set to visit South Korea toward the end of this month, a SDP source said.

The SDP also decided to review a plan to send an SDP delegation to North Korea.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Cultivating Poppies for Foreign Currency

SK1604064296 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Apr 96 p 2

[By Yun Tuk-hon from Hong Kong]

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting remarks by a Beijing official, the 21 April edition of Hong Kong's YAZHOU ZHOUKAN [name of publication rendered in Chinese, ASIAWEEK] reported that North Korea is, as a policy, encouraging farmers in the northeast mountainous area situated in the border region with the PRC, to cultivate opium poppy as means to secure foreign currency to import daily necessities.

YAZHOU ZHOUKAN also reported that this Beijing official conveyed that North Korea is selling in the high seas opium and morphine injection liquid made from opium poppy and is securing foreign currency, and that authorities of Jilin Province, a PRC border area, are very worried over the fact that opium may be brought into this region.

This official revealed that last year the public security authorities of Baishan city, Jilin Province uncovered 10 cases of North Korean opium being brought into this region, and that Jilin Province is very concerned about the problem of opium being smuggled to the degree that it newly established an office in charge of opium related cases.

He added that North Korea is denying that it smuggled opium, but considering that the opium poppy that was once seen at the border region with the PRC was still seen through the binoculars recently, it is inevitable that we cannot but recognize the cultivation of opium poppy as a North Korea's "guideline."

ROK: Pyongyang Television Shows Scenes of Kang Song-san

SK1604074696 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A scene of North Korean Premier Kang Song-san laying a flower basket before Kim Il-song's statue was shown yesterday. He has not appeared at any official event for the past four months, ever since the beginning of this year.

NAEWOE news reported that on the evening of 15 April, Pyongayng Korean Central Television Network carried a scene of North Korean Premier Kang Song-san, together with his family, laying a flower basket bearing a ribbon reading "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il- song Is Alive Forever" before the Kim Il-song's statue on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang. The scene was carried without any explanation.

ROK Air Force Fighters Participate in 15 Apr Defense Exercise

SK1604020996 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 10 Air Force fighters, posing as enemy intruders, made flights during a civil defense drill in Seoul and other cities yesterday.

Air Force fighters such as F-16s and F-4s participated in the 20- minute-long fights during the civil defense drill that started at 2 p.m. [0500 GMT]

It was the first time that fighters had flown over the restricted flight area of Seoul during the drill.

ROK: 16 General, Flag-Level Military Officers Promoted

SK1404045196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Maj. Gen. So Tae-sok, commander of the Army Intelligence Command, has been promoted to lieutenant general and named director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in a reshuffle affecting 18 general- and flag-level officers, the Defense Ministry announced yesterday.

In the reshuffle, four Army major generals and a Navy rear admiral have been promoted, while 11 brigadier generals have added another star to their rank.

Maj. Gen. Pak Yong-ok, deputy assistant defense minister for policy, has also been promoted to lieutenant general while retaining his post.

Maj. Gens. Chong Yong-chin, Army deputy chief of staff for intelligence and operations, and An Song-yong, Army deputy chief of staff for logistics, have been promoted and named Army corps commanders.

Rear Adm. Yi Chi-tu at the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been promoted to vice admiral and named superintendent of the Korea Naval Academy

Air Force Lt. Gen. Pae Yang-il, commander of the Combat Air Command, and Lt. Gen. Pak Chun-taek, Air Force vice chief of staff, have exchanged their posts.

Nine Army brigadier generals, including O Chi-un, have been promoted to major generals and at the same time named division commanders. Also promoted to major general was Brig. Gen. Cho Nae- won, Army Provost Marshal General, the ministry spokesman said.

Marine Brig. Gen. Kim Myong-hwan has been promoted to major general and named a Marine Division commander.

A Defense Ministry official said Gen. Chang Song, deputy commander-in-chief of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command, will likely retain his post for another two years. A follow-up reshuffle may be announced this week, the official said.

ROK Government Deposits $1 Million for Tuman River Program

SK1604072896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0037 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, May 15 [date as received] (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government deposited 1 million U.S. dollars with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Monday to help support the Tuman River Area Development Program (TRADP).

TRADP is the first multilateral economic cooperation project in Northeast Asia with five countries participating — South and North Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia.

An official at the South Korean mission to the United Nations, while making the deposit, expressed a hope that TRADP will contribute to developing economic potential, stability and prosperity in the region.

The deposit will be used by TRADP's program management committee for feasibility studies, streamlining the legal systems of participating countries, fostering a favorable environment for investment and research for promising projects.

TRADP was initiated as a top priority project in the region at a UNDP meeting held in Ulaanbaatar in July 1991.

At its sixth conference held at the UN headquarters early last December, the program management committee signed an agreement on TRADP and Northeast Asian Development Council and an environmental memorandum of understanding involving the development project.

ROK Editorial: Election Results 'Frustration' for Kim Tae-chung

SK1304015496 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1247 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Chairman Kim Tae-chung After Election"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The April 11 election was a frustration for Kim Tae-chung. Overconfident after the June 27 local elections, he foresaw a return to the political scene and the demise of the Democratic Party, the "defectors", and felt the election would provide the impetus for a fourth presidential campaign. But the voters in the metropolitan area's were merciless in their rejection of his calculations.

The conservative votes in the metropolitan area that had deserted Kim Yong-sam for Kim Tae-chung in the June 27 local elections compelled him to invite old-hats from previous administrations in an effort to absorb these votes under his right-of-the-middle and economic-first policies. The results of the general election had once again confirmed that Kim Tae-chung is not able to go beyond his traditional power base.

Once again he finds himself at a cross-road whether to develop a survival logic or calmly accept the result. Splitting the votes among opposition parties is naturally the best way for the ruling party to increase its election chances. Kim Tae-chung disregarded this simple math. In fact, the power base of the National Congress for New Politics and the Democratic Party combined would have resulted in a victory over the ruling candidates in many constituencies.

Kim Tae-chung will only further increase the fracture of the opposition and increase the strength of the ruling party if he blames others for this result. We think that he will embolden those calling for the complete dismissal of the Three Kims from the political arena if he falls back on political manipulation in his survival strategy. He must decide what is more important, becoming president or strengthening the opposition for the next generation.

ROK: Chon Gave Billions of Won to 1987 Presidential Campaigns

SK1504044296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 15 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan said Monday that he used a total of 197.4 billion won for supporting campaigners in the 1987 presidential elections.

Testifying at the second session of the Seoul District Court trial of the graft case involving him, Chon said that he also spent 400 billion won out of "contributions" from businesses for political purposes and for supporting people and organizations in all walks of social life.

Aside from the presidential campaign funds, 30 billion won was used to form the then-ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), 140 billion won for the party's operating funds, 100 billion each for the general elections in 1984 and 1988, and 140 billion won for financial support to various social strata, according to Chon's testimony.

Prosecutors have thus far disclosed that Chon raised some 700 billion won in slush funds while in office.

Chon had already told prosecution interrogators that about 88 billion won was used to assist politicians and journalists and others, for the DJP's founding, and that 8.9 billion won was given to the state after he was forced to step down as president.

But prosecutors said that they will continue digging into whether there are any more secret funds still to be uncovered.

ROK: Prosecution Uncovers Another 11 Billion Won Hidden by Chon

SK1604121196 Seoul YONHAP in English
1134 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP) — The prosecution on Tuesday uncovered another cache of 11 billion won former President Chon Tu-hwan has been clandestinely keeping in the form of long-term bonds.

A prosecution official said a look into the financial items kept by Chon's relatives and in-laws showed that they included long-term industrial bonds totaling 11 billion won that actually belonged to Chon.

"We have found out that most of the 212.9 billion won in secret funds Chon had at the time he stepped down from presidency in 1988 were invested in industrial bonds," he said.

The official also said Kim Sok-won, former chairman of the Ssangyong Business Group, was found to have cashed Chon's industrial bonds totaling 8.8 billion won under the names of his business associates in late 1993 and early 1994 in violation of rules on the real-name financial transaction system.

Of the 8.8 billion won, 6.1 billion won had been hidden at Kim Sok-won's Itaewon home before it was taken to a storage of the Ssangyong Cement Co. last November when the prosecution began to trace Chon's secret funds.

"But, we don't consider taking any legal step against Kim Sok-won because he did not take any commission nor borrowed part of the money for use by his group," the official added.

ROK: NCNP Statement on Seeking Alliance With 'Opposition Forces'

SK1604055596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0404 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP) — The major opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) declared Tuesday that it would mount a struggle against the "self-righteous politics" employed by the government and its party in collaboration with other opposition forces.

"We'll do our best to hold President Kim Yong-sam's self- righteous and arbitrary politics in check. To that end, we will mount a forceful struggle in alliance with the United Liberal Democrats, Democrats and Independents," NCNP lawmakers-elect said in a joint statement.

The statement was issued following a rally held by successful NCNP candidates in Thursday's general elections Tuesday morning at the National Assembly hall.

The parliamentary elections were conducted in an illicit manner by the administration and the ruling party, the NCNP claimed, alleging that they were characterized by illegal financing, influence-exerting, biased media coverage and exaggeration of the recent tensions in the Demilitarized Zone.

The lawmakers-elect threatened to wage a floor struggle against alleged election riggings and to have those responsible for such irregularities sternly punished.

They also promised to strive for implementation of their election campaign pledges, including a probe into President Kim's 1992 election campaign funds through a parliamentary hearing, eradication of structural corruption in the government's top echelon, and the realization of an economy-first policy.

In his address at the rally, NCNP head Kim Tae-chung said, "It is disheartening that our party has failed to attain our goal in the number of parliamentary seats, and that several party elders suffered defeat in the elections."

Referring to his party's strong showing at the June 27 local elections last year, the major opposition leader added, "To win a battle and to lose another is something ordinary for strategists. Let's turn the misfortune into a fortune in the future."

Kim maintained that the recent general elections have revealed that an artificial generational shift in politics, advocated by the government and its party, does not enjoy public sympathy.

"Our party, which the ruling party has attempted to crush, has survived, while a force that tried to undermine ours has certainly crumbled. Thus a genuine opposition party has firmly established itself," Kim added.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Rebuts View That NCNP Failed in Elections

SK1604050896 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kim Tae-chung, leader of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP], denied Sunday the widespread view that the NCNP failed in Thursday's polls, suffering a major setback.

In an interview with a daily, he said, "I don't understand why people are saying we lost the elections. Actually, we won 14 more seats than we had before. How can this be called a failure?"

He asserted that the 79 seats the NCNP won during the elections was no small number, but he didn't mention that it failed to attain its goal of winning one-third of the Assembly seats.

It was apparent that he was dissatisfied with the media's interpretation of the election results, and that the NCNP suffered a serious setback considering Kim's plans for a fourth bid for the presidency next year.

"We have many candidates in the Seoul and Kyonggi-to area who came in second by a slight margin," he said in a desperate effort to rebut the public view that the NCNP's popularity shrank in his home base of the Honam area.

"We nominated our candidates across the nation and even won thousands of votes in districts in the Pusan and Kyongsang-namdo area, the stronghold for the ruling NKP [New Korea Party]. It must be noted that our candidates all garnered the second largest number of votes in Cheju-to," he was quoted by the CHUNGANG ILBO as saying.

NCNP leader Kim attributes the NKP's victory to the "North Wind" and alleged vote-buying. The "North Wind" refers to the recent DMZ crisis brought on by North Korea's renunciation of the Armistice Agreement and the incursions of a group of heavily armed troops into the Joint Security Area.

He said it was especially encouraging that about 40 percent of the young generation voted for NCNP candidates, since they were the people least affected by these factors.

Later he added that the government's systematic intervention in election campaigning and misleading press coverage of the elections were other reasons for the party's poor performance in the metropolitan area, where the ruling NKP took home 27 out of the total 47 seats at stake.

He blamed the media for helping to divert attention away from the main issues, such as the economy, by profusely spotlighting the danger posed by North Korea on the eve of the elections.

"The ruling camp spread around enormous amounts of money during the elections. But the police turned a deaf ear to our campaigner's report on the illegal activities while apprehending our campaigners for minor violations. We had no one else to rely on for fair election campaign with the media working in that manner. We had to combat that disadvantage," he said, criticizing the double standards the police and investigation authorities allegedly practiced throughout the campaign period. He complained particularly of the impact of the "North Wind." "It is a big problem that North Korea can affect the South's politics. We must start a campaign to overcome the phenomenon. If we can get over this, our party will fare well in next year's presidential election," he said, indicating that he will run despite the setback in the April 11 general elections.

When asked if he had any plans for forming a new coalition with other opposition forces, he parried a direct answer, saying, "Let's see. There is no reason to make haste."

The NCNP will hold a meeting of successful candidates today to assess the outcome of the elections for a fresh start.

ROK: NCNP Plans Leadership Reshuffle To Get Out of 'Deadlock'

SK1604050696 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Article by Nam In-soo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), viewed as the biggest loser in last Thursday's general elections, is trying to get out of its current political deadlock.

It suffered a setback when it clinched 79 seats, well below its avowed goal of 100. The election results also dealt a severe blow to party leader Kim Tae-chung, who was counting on a strong showing by his party in order to solidify his bid for the presidency next year.

Kim, who was reeling from the heavy punch, first opened his mouth Sunday to deny media reports that his party lost the battle.

"We didn't lose the elections. Our seats have increased from 54 to 79 which means we have also made handsome progress like the United Liberal Democrats," Kim said.

But most election analysts say that Thursday's vote undoubtedly dealt a humiliating defeat to the main opposition party. "Nobody doubts that the NCNP lost the battle, said Cho Chung-pin, political science professor at Kukgmin University.

In a bid to rise above this setback, the main opposition party is planning to conduct major leadership reshuffles next week.

"The outline of the leadership change will become clear by this weekend," party spokesman Kim Han-kil said.

Han Hwa-kap, a close confidant of party leader Kim, said that the party will have a drastic face-lift under new leadership. Specifically, fewer vice presidents are expected to emerge under the new leadership structure.

One thing that forces the leadership revamp is the humiliating election defeat of some party elders by fresh contenders from rival parties.

Chong Tae-chol, for example, is a four-term lawmaker and the NCNP's top campaign manager, but he lost to ruling party candidate, Pak Song-pom, former TV anchor and a political novice.

The anticipated leadership change, however, is not likely to affect the position of the party's paramount leader, Kim Tae-chung, who had said that he would hold himself responsible for any bad election outcome.

A Kim Tae-chung aide ruled out the possibility that his boss will resign from the party presidency which might stir an early power vacuum. "Kim will not take a back seat at the moment," the aide said.

The NCNP leader attributed his party's worse-than-expected performance to, most of all, North Korea's provocative threats that popped up at the end of the campaigning.

"It's a big problem that the North affects our politics. Without the North Korean factor, our party would have stood at a vantage point in next year's presidential election," he said.

Political analysts say Kim's remarks are an indication that he will not give up his fourth try at the presidency next year.

"Nothing is certain as of now, but he is more likely to run in next year's presidential race," Prof. Cho of Kukmin University said.

Kim Tae-chung is expected to reveal his views on his party's election results and his future political moves in today's celebration of successful party candidates.

A senior NCNP official said that Kim Tae-chung is considering a coalition with the opposition United Liberal Democrats, led by Kim Chong-pil, in order to hold the government and the ruling party in check.

"Our party needs to join hands with the United Liberal Democrats and other minor opposition groups to prevent the ruling party from becoming a majority in the legislature," the NCNP's chief policymaker Son Se-il said.

In last week's balloting, the ruling New Korea Party won 139 seats, 11 seats shy of a majority in the 299-member National Assembly.

Despite his denial of any alliance with the United Liberal Democrats, Kim Tae-chung in the past responded favorably to Kim Chong-pil's call for a constitutional amendment from the presidential system of government to a parliamentary one.

But since he made his political comeback in June last year, he came out strong against Kim Chong-pil's call for the constitutional revision.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung To Decide To Seek Presidency

SK1604074396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0649 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP) — Kim Tae- chung, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), did not deny the possibility Tuesday that he may run in next year's presidential election.

While participating in the convention of his party's recently elected lawmakers, he said, "If you win the final fight, you win everything. If this party wins (the presidential election) next year, then even unsuccessful candidates from the last general election win everything."

In his first public speech since the April 11 general elections, Kim said that he will take time to decide whether or not he will seek the presidency.

The NCNP won 79 parliamentary seats with 25.3 percent of the votes cast in the general elections to position it as the main opposition party, although it missed the original target of more than 100 seats.

The ruling New Korea Party won 139 seats with 34.5 percent of the votes cast. The conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats won 50 seats with 16.2 percent of the vote while the minor opposition Democratic Party won 15 seats with 11.2 percent.

"There are rumors about what I will do in the future, but frankly speaking, I don't care about the rumors. I will take time to think about my future according to the public opinion," he said.

He said he was not satisfied with the election results. "But the results are not without a positive side. We won 79 seats with the support of the people and stayed as the main opposition party. I will manage the party as firmly as before the elections."

He also criticized the ruling party for using the North Korean provocations that heightened military tension in the truce village of Panmunjom during the general elections.

ROK: NKP Plans To Conduct Reshuffle of Party Officials in May

SK1604050596 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party [NKP] plans to conduct a large-scale reshuffle of key party officeholders next month to make a fresh start following the general elections last week.

Party leaders said yesterday they are ready to resign from their posts to pave the way for President Kim Yong-sam to form a new party line-up.

Chairman Kim Yun-hwan will convey this message soon when he meets President Kim, who also heads the party, said a party spokesman.

Although the party averted a setback in the elections, it has felt the need to reshuffle its leaders to cope with the new political order emerging after the elections.

The party is expected to carry out the reshuffle shortly before the 15th National Assembly is inaugurated at the end of next month.

Attention is being drawn to whether Chairman Kim, the No. 2 man after President Kim in the party's hierarchy, will retain his post.

Party officials believe that with its current leadership it will be difficult for the party to effectively meet public demands which surfaced through the elections.

President Kim is expected to replace Chairman Kim with one without political ambition for the next presidency to lead the party, party sources said.

Former Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku, who campaigned for the party in the elections, and Kim Myong-yun, one of the President Kim's close associates, are considered strong candidates for the chairmanship .

But speculation has it that President Kim may abolish the chairmanship altogether and appoint a group of vice presidents to supervise party affairs on his behalf.

If the party adopts the collective leadership system, reports said, former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, and former law-maker Pak Chan-chong are certain to be included in the group of vice presidents.

Yi and Pak, who were recruited by President Kim shortly before the elections, helped the party win an electoral victory in Seoul and its vicinities.

In a related move, a party official said the party has yet to decide whether it will revise party charters in accordance with its change in leadership structure.

"We need to approach the issue of changing into a collective leadership carefully because it could lead vice presidents to form their own factions," said the official

Along with the replacement of party leaders, the party is planning to fill some key party posts with young politicians.

The plan is in line with the party's determination to meet what it calls popular aspirations for a generational change in politics.

The party believes that voters gave a clear message demanding a generational change in politics in the elections by giving more than 40 percent of the total National Assembly seats to new political faces.

But the party is planning to appoint senior party law-makers as leaders of the National Assembly, including chairmen of the Assembly's standing committees.

Reports said President Kim may replace some cabinet members when he reshuffles key officeholders of the party.

ROK: Yi Hoe-chang Addresses Fraternity of Broadcast Journalists

SK1604050496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party [NKP], which performed better in the recent general elections than had been expected, needs to promote dialogue and compromises with the opposition, a ruling party leader said yesterday.

Former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, who helped bring about a near victory as a top campaign manager last week, said his party will lead in the operation of the National Assembly through dialogue and compromises with the opposition.

Voters gave a mandate to the ruling party, which won 139 of the 299 National Assembly seats, to promote harmony and compromises with the opposition for political stability in the nation, Yi said in speech to a fraternity of broadcast journalists.

He claimed more voters supported his party's call for political stability than the opposition's demands for a mandate to check the ruling camp.

The ruling party needs to win the next presidential election, scheduled for December 1997, in order to promote reforms amid stability, said Yi, who is one of the party's potential nominees.

To win the presidential election, he said, the ruling party will promote in-house democracy and turn itself into a party in which citizens can participate.

The ruling party, he said, will open its doors to any one who agrees with its policy and philosophy.

By forging closer relations with the administration, he said, the ruling party will ensure the administration will reflect the opinion of citizens in its reform policy to the fullest extent possible.

Though they found fault with some of the reforms pursued by the administration, he said, voters supported its basic principles and overall policy goals.

"I believe that was conditional voter support," he said.

ROK: KCCI Releases Forecast for Industries in 2d Quarter

SK1604055496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 Apr 96 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The heavy chemical industry, which has been spearheading the growth of the national economy, is likely to show a continued boom in the second quarter of this year, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said.

A KCCI analysis, released yesterday, showed that exports of the nation's electronics (semiconductor), petrochemical, oil refining, automobile and general machinery products would increase by about 22.8 percent (55 percent), 37 percent, 19 percent, 12.2 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively, in the April-June period over the same period of last year.

In domestic sales, iron, steel and automobile industries are expected to post particularly high growth rates as relevant market conditions are improving.

But the poor performance of the foot-wear industry will likely continue into the second quarter, while prospects for the shipbuilding industry are widely mixed.

Automobile: Strengthened overseas marketing and introduction of the so-called "niche models" such as wagons and hatchbacks will raise overseas shipment 12.2 percent to 279,300 units over the same period of 1995. Domestic sales will also increase 11.8 percent to 416,100 units on the strength of several favorable factors, including the launch of installment financing companies, cut in the installment-sale interest rate, government plans to back up subcompact cars and the introduction of new niche models. However, the continued appreciation of the won currency could weaken the price competitiveness of Korean-made automobiles, while import regulations from European countries and Brazil may get in the way of the export boom.

Electronics: Continued popularity of Windows 95 and the "Internet boom" will give a sharp rise in the demand for PCs. Furthermore, the April-June period coincides with the wedding season. Overall, production, exports and domestic sales will increase 18.2 percent to 14.3 trillion won, 22.8 percent to $12.7 billion, and 9.8 percent to 2.75 trillion won, respectively. Production and export of semiconductor chips will also rise 48 percent to $4.88 billion and 55 percent to $4.56 billion, respectively .

General machinery: Increase in the facility investment and government measures to foster the capital-goods industry will help domestic sales jump 1.6 percent. On the export side, rising demand for automobile parts in China, Southeast Asia and Europe will help expand shipment by 9.5 percent. Overall production will increase 1.8 percent to 8.1 trillion won whereas imports will decrease 4.8 percent to $5.3 billion.

Others: Iron and steel industry will see its domestic sales increase 22.4 percent due to continued increase in demand. Rising demand for Korean-made petrochemical products from China, Southeast Asia and the United States will raise the industry's export volume 37 percent to 843,200 tons.

ROK: Number of Exporting Companies Down 39 Percent

SK1404060096 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the decrease in competitiveness of Korea's light industrial products, the number of small- and medium- sized trading companies which either give up exports or the trading business altogether, is increasing sharply.

The Korea Traders Association announced on the 13th that it accepted applications for registration renewal from trading companies from October to the end of December last year. The results showed that 39.3 percent, or 15,518 companies among the 39,496 companies up for registration renewal, either gave up or were excluded in the registration process.

ROK: Twenty Consortia File Applications for Telecom Licenses

SK1604052896 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A total of 20 consortia filed applications to the government yesterday for licenses allowing the services nationwide in six telecom sectors.

The six sectors are personal communication service (PCS), international call, trunked radio system (TRS), send-only wireless phone service called CT-2, wireless data communications and cable network leasing.

Hanjin Glocom, a TRS consortium led by the Hanjin Group, filed its application documents first at the opening hour of 10 a.m., followed by LG Telecom for PCS, Hansol PCS led by the Hansol Group and Dacom Corp., Glotel by the Kumho Group and the Hyosung Group for the PCS project.

A 1.5-ton pick-up truck unloaded a four-drawer file cabinet containing Hanjin's documents at 7:30 a.m. at the Saean building, where the Information and Communication Ministry is housed. Hanjin was the first company to file their documents.

Greentel headed by Korea Federation of Small Business (KFSB) submitted the largest volume of documents, 30,000 pages, in two four-drawer file cabinets.

A Greentel official said that his consortium has the largest volume because its shareholders number as many as 14,300 firms.

LG Telecom completed the filing one hour and 20 minutes after government officials closely checked the format and pages of its 22,000-page document.

Four consortia filed their applications for one nationwide TRS license, the most competitive among the five divisions. The consortia are Anam Telecom, Dongbu Telecom, Kia Telecom and Hanjin Glocom.

Glotel, Hansol PCS and Greentel will compete for one PCS license in the non-telecom equipment manufacturing division, and LG Telecom will compete with Evernet formed by Samsung and Hyundai in the telecom equipment manufacturing division. One PCS ticket has been reserved for Korea Telecom which also submitted its application.

Six consortia will compete for three wireless data transmission licenses. They are Geotelecom by Jinro, Korea Radio Data Communication by Hanbo, Air Media by Korea Zinc, Intech Wireless Communications by Intech Industrial, and Hancom Telecom by Hankuk Computer.

Korea Global Telecom, a consortium made up of nine major shareholders, submitted its application for a single international call service license.

Korea Telecom also submitted its application for the sole CT-2 ticket for nationwide services, which has been set aside for the state-run telecom service provider.

Korea Electric Power Corp. and Korea Oil Pipeline Co. filed their applications for cable network leasing licenses in the name of Winnet and G&G Telecom, respectively.

The government will receive applications today and tomorrow from those hoping to provide TRS, CT-2 and paging services in provinces.

Burma

Burma: Schedules 1, 2 of SLORC State Budget Law

BK1304153496 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 31 Mar 96 p 3

[FBIS Summary] THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR carries Schedules 1 and 2 of the 1996 State Budget Law issued by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] on 29 March.

Schedule 1: SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, Government, Chief Justice, Attorney General, and Auditor General Receipts

Subject	Other Current Receipts in Kyats	Capital Receipts in Kyats	Receipts from Foreign Aids in Kyats
SLORC	3,214,300	15,000	
Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission	300		
Government	6,308,000	30,000	6,315,000
Chief Justice	80,183,000		
Attorney General	103,000		
Auditor General	3,378,100	1,000	
Total	93,186,700	46,000	6,315,000

Schedule 2: SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, Government, Chief Justice, Attorney General, and Auditor General Expenditures

Subject	Current Expenditure in Kyats	Contribution	Capital Expenditure
SLORC	195,412,600		59,749,380
Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission	6,300,000		10,000,000
Government	154,226,400	9,583,600	202,681,270
Chief Justice	117,478,010		9,497,450
Attorney General	57,573,000		14,089,300
Auditor General	120,171,600		10,756,590
Total	651,161,600	9,583,600	306,773,990

Burma: Schedule 3 of SLORC State Budget Law

BK1404125296 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 1 Apr p 3

[FBIS Summary] Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English carries Schedule 3 of the 1996 State Budget Law issued by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] on 29 March.

Schedule 3: Ministries and Departments Receipts

Subject	Taxes in Kyats	Receipts from the State Economics Organizations in Kyats
Taxes levied on inland production and public consumption	9,644,240,000	
Taxes levied on income and ownership	6,067,512,000	
Custom Duties	3,500,000,000	
Taxes levied on utility of State-owned properties	888,261,000	
Receipts from the State Economics Organization	11,337,765,000	
Total	20,100,013,000	11,337,765,000

Receipts

Subject	Other Current Receipts in Kyats	Capital Receipts in Kyats	Receipts from Foreign Aids in Kyats
Foreign Affairs	3,000,000	51,000	
Defense	153,529,000		
Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs	225,000		
Home Affairs	40,845,163	500,000	2,000,000
Immigration and Population	50,000,000		48,000
Religious Affairs	20,002,000		
Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement	3,601,000		273,000
Information	100,491,800		
Culture	10,701,640		
Education	377,580,650		5,103,000
Health	31,041,500	1,200,000	87,484,000
Labor	18,460	1,000	37,000
Forestry	120,401,300		5,839,000
Agriculture	1,790,179,900	70,360,200	138,323,000
Livestock Breeding and Fisheries	182,829,300		
Mines	8,720,000	10,000	
Industry No.1	21,906,680	50,000	
Industry No.2	3,802,900		210,000
Construction	96,623,500	700,000,000	
Transport	144,400,000		
Rail Transportation	143,031,000		
Communications, Post, and Telegraphs	63,405,000		800,000
Trade	70,001,000		
Hotels and Tourism Services	1,505,000		
Cooperatives	20,888,000		
National Planning and Economic Development	18,691,000	110,000	50,000
Finance and Revenue	509,425,300	50,000	1,040,000,000
Pension and Gratuities	301,500		
Total	3,987,147,590	772,332,200	1,280,167,000

Burma: Schedule 4 of SLORC State Budget Law

BK1404125696 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 2 Apr p 3

[FBIS Summary] Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English carries Schedule 4 of the 1996 State Budget Law issued by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] on 29 March.

Schedule 4: Ministries and Departments Expenditure

Subject	Current Expenditure in Kyats	Contribution in Kyats	Capital Expenditure in Kyats
Foreign Affairs	105,000,000	652,000	51,274,570
Defense	11,215,170,300		6,000,000,000
Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs	136,068,000	268,108,840	359,370,360
Home Affairs	1,705,740,000	134,446,500	261,233,200
Immigration and Population	146,620,000		70,756,180
Religious Affairs	82,000,000	36,491,800	16,392,150

Subject	Current Expenditure in Kyats	Contribution in Kyats	Capital Expenditure in Kyats
Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement	106,650,000	19,300,000	163,448,910
Information	208,100,000		280,748,730
Culture	61,357,000	46,250	403,411,050
Education	4,682,579,000	306,850	2,896,364,230
Health	979,650,000	2,827,400	1,246,350,420
Labor	36,890,000	261,000	12,892,720
Forestry	308,900,000	400,000	244,094,840
Agriculture	2,524,800,000	385,670	3,996,000,400
Livestock Breeding and Fisheries	298,139,000	234,000	71,197,370
Mines	51,900,000		6,840,940
Industry No.1	27,570,000		3,929,600
Industry No.2	23,300,000	181,000	18,858,690
Energy	5,550,000		2,438,430
Construction	1,516,451,950		2,535,308,620
Transport	115,500,000	650,000	716,737,500
Rail Transport	42,450,000		4,913,090
Communications, Post, and Telegraphs	33,600,000	757,500	3,021,760
Trade	21,000,000		560,380
Hotels and Tourism Services	5,500,000		691,920
Cooperatives	262,320,000		104,684,420
National Planning and Economic Development	70,710,000	4,245,000	34,968,260
Finance and Revenue	315,900,000	204,680,000	101,893,600
Pension and Gratuities	1,098,012,000		
Gratuities and Commuted Pension	352,000,000		
Total	26,539,427,250	673,973,810	19,658,382,340
Reserved Fund	100,000,000		

Burma: Schedules 5, 6, 7, 8 of SLORC State Budget Law

BK1404131896 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 3 Apr p 3

[FBIS Summary] Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English carries Schedules 5 through 8 of the 1996 State Budget Law issued by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] on 29 March.

Schedule 5: State Economics Organizations

	Receipts		Debts	
Subject	Other Current Receipts in Kyats	Capital Receipts in Kyats	Recovery of Loans in Kyats	Drawal of Loans in Kyats
State Economics Organizations	94,931,135,000	103,562,000	3,453,000	767,924,000
Total	94,931,135,000	103,562,000	13,453,000	767,924,000

Schedule 6: State Economics Organizations

	Expenditure		Debts	
Subject	**Current Expenditure in Kyats**	**Capital Expenditure in Kyats**	**Disbursement of Loans in Kyats**	**Repayment of Loans in Kyats**
State Economics Organizations	100,695,855,500	9,029,399,360	9,555,000	1,142,162,000
Total	100,695,855,500	9,029,399,360	9,555,000	1,142,162,000
Investment in Organizations in Kyats	125,682,000			
Total	125,682,000			

Schedule 7: Cantonment Municipalities

	Receipts	
Subject	**Taxes in Kyats**	**Other Current Receipts in Kyats**
Cantonment Municipalities under the Defense Ministry	53,200	15,010,940
Total	53,200	15,010,940

Schedule 8: Cantonment Municipalities

	Expenditure	
Subject	**Current Expenditure in Kyats**	**Capital Expenditure in Kyats**
Cantonment Municipalities under the Defense Ministry	12,977,300	6,647,700
Total	12,977,300	6,647,700

Signed: Than Shwe, Senior General

Chairman, State Law and Order Restoration Council

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Economic Policy Linked to Ability To Keep Currency Stable

BK1604055096 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English 16 Apr 96 p 8

[Editorial: "'Fair Play' and 'Asian Values'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The battle over the Malaysian ringgit" reviewed on this page is indeed a fascinating one and the fact that Malaysia appears to be winning it against wave after wave of onslaughts by international currency speculators since 1993/94 contains not just one but several valuable lessons.

The most salient one, perhaps, concerns "fair play" and a new take on "Asian values".

Since the August 1971 breakdown of the Bretton Woods system resulting from the US decision to take the dollar off the gold standard, central banks worldwide have progressively lost control over their countries' currencies.

It all started rather tamely. Only very slowly and usually only after very bad experiences with conducting trade and investment in a highly-volatile, floating international exchange rate environment did corporate executives begin to accept the need to hedge their currency risk. And when they tried to, their bankers would often put them off, unable to see or think about how they could make money in that new-fangled business. All that began to change dramatically — and much too fast for central bank bureaucracies and market regulators to keep pace — when, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, clever Wall Street, Chicago, and City of London traders and finance wizards began to create what by now are thousands of different and often highly complex securities and commodities (including currencies) derivatives.

Initially and now, the large majority of those financial instruments was and is not traded on well-regulated exchanges, but over-the-counter and in the interbank market, that is, essentially privately and out of any monetary authority's or regulator's control.

Every day, largely unregulated currency and currency-related transactions and trades now total in the trillions of dollars.

Since most of those transactions are highly leveraged, fears have been voiced time and again that global financial-system meltdown might result, domino-effect fashion, were, several major such trades to go bad simultaneously.

Congressional and parliamentary committees and blue-ribbon commissions have been convened in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and elsewhere to study and then to tame the putative derivatives monster; but little if anything has actually been done on that front.

Thus it came to pass that, in September 1992, when gaggles of currency speculators, led by renowned hedge fund operator George Soros, attacked the British pound and forced it out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, the Bank of England had few weapons in hand to combat the attackers and largely stood idly by watching the spectacle unfold.

Time-honored principles of "fair play" dictated such inaction on the part of the honorable bank governors, letting Soros get away with a few quick billions. Or did it?

It is just as likely that the bank governors' gentlemanly behavior was dictated by the consideration that, if they trained heavy artillery on the speculators, they and their brethren in the City of London would undermine their own financial liberalization mantra and would be ill-positioned at another point in time to heap scorn and abuse on central banks such as Malaysia's Bank Negara when the latter deployed whatever tools available to defend their currencies.

But of course, the Malaysian central bank's attempts to protect the stability of the country's currency over the past several years would surely have come to naught if it had not been for other and more important factors than market intervention and the enactment of regulatory measures.

What principally underlies the ability not only of Malaysia but of other East Asian economies to guarantee stable exchange rates are some very simple and straightforward Asian economic values: commitment to high growth and low inflation, buttressed and supported by low taxation regimes, conservative fiscal policies and targeted incentives to entrepreneurial initiative.

It is commitment to these Asian values that has defined East Asia's economic success, and no contrary conventional academic wisdom will lead to their abandonment.

Perhaps were they to accept that such commitment to the fundamentals of these countries' and people's economic development on the part of their governments was real and unalterable, foreign speculators might fare better in these markets.

Malaysia: Statistics Office Reports Higher Trade Deficit

BK1304112896 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 13 Apr 96

[BERNAMA report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — Higher import growth led to Malaysia's trade deficit worsening to RM [Malaysian ringgit] 9.2 billion last year from just RM2 billion in 1994, the Statistics Department announced yesterday.

The much-awaited monthly external trade statistics from the department were released late afternoon yesterday.

The department said the deficit was lower than the forecast of RM9.6 billion reported in the finance ministry's 1995/96 Economic Report released last October.

The figures contained in the department's report were identical to those contained in Bank Negara's [Central Bank] annual report released on March 27.

On the external trade situation last December, it said Malaysia reported a surplus of RM655.3 million against deficits of RM1.6 billion and RM40 million in October and November, respectively, while the deficit for December 1994 stood at RM731.6 million.

The department also said the December 1995 surplus was the first since January 1995 when a surplus of RM152.5 million was recorded.

The trade surplus for December 1995 was due to the much stronger growth in exports which rose 20.3 per cent against a rise of 10.3 per cent in imports.

Total exports for December 1995 amounted to RM17.5 billion — the highest ever monthly earnings achieved — while imports for the month totalled RM16.9 billion.

Referring to the whole of 1995, the department said imports grew 24.7 per cent or RM38.6 billion to RM194.5 billion from RM155.9 billion in 1994. On the other hand, exports jumped 20.4 per cent or RM31.4

billion to RM185.3 billion from RM153.9 billion in 1994.

The purchase of 12 large commercial aircraft amounting to RM2.9 billion and 11 cargo vessels (including a liquefied natural gas carrier) valued at RM1.4 billion partly contributed to the trade deficit in 1995.

The department said machinery and transport equipment again constituted the largest proportion, accounting for RM116.7 billion or 60 per cent of the total import expenditure. It also remained the largest contributor to the increase in the total import value (plus RM24.4 billion).

Cambodia

Cambodia: Hun Sen Criticizes Parties' Promises of State Jobs

BK1204132496 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian
0900 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Speech by Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Kien Khleang orphanage in Phnom Penh on 12 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] As I said before, it is not easy to enter the state administration, called the civilian administration. The civilian administration cannot be changed that easily. The civilian administration is the same in all countries; that is, it cannot be changed at random. Any cut would be from the neck upwards; that is, the politicians first. After the elections, politicians are just a group of human beings put together in the suitcase of the prime minister and a political party. For example, if party A wins, Mr. B will be made prime minister. Mr. B must then arrange his politicians to become deputy prime ministers, state ministers, ministers, state secretaries, and under state secretaries. All these are political officials who can be changed. These officials will be removed and put back in the suitcase when the prime minister resigns and relinquishes his duty.

The positions that are not changed are, in case of the army, the chief of staff down to the rank and file; at the institutional levels, they are officials from the department head downward. Changes will only be made in the case of those who have done something wrong or who reach retirement. As for the local administration level, officials from the provincial governor downward remain unchanged. Should there be a change, it would be only to reshuffle their duties. It is not common practice to put members of another party into those positions.

Therefore, I would like to warn all of you that politicians from a number of parties are now moving around to launch their propaganda again. They urge you to join their parties, telling you that they will make you district governor or provincial governor or this and that when their parties win. Now I want to tell you that I will not agree to allow anyone to become a district governor or provincial governor. I will absolutely not sign anything, because this is against the law and against reality. The only exception is in the case of a retirement, which requires a new appointment. With such a change, they should select people to be appointed as various officials in accordance with the law. I will not do anything that is not in accordance with the rules and regulations.

This or that political party wants many members to be appointed. No way; I will not sign. This is against the law, against reality. It only causes many complex problems. Administrative, judicial, and political matters should be handled in accordance with statutes on these subjects. That is what I just want to stress to you. Do not hope for this. Do not be tricked into joining any party just because you think you can enter the state administration. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Indonesia: Editorial Previews Australian Foreign Minister's Visit

BK1504152896 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
15 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Significance of Close Ties Between Indonesian and Australian Leaders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer is scheduled to arrive in Jakarta on 15 April for a three-day visit before proceeding to Singapore and Thailand. His visit to three key Southeast Asian countries is aimed at nothing but introducing himself to these countries' leaders.

Downer is scheduled to meet with President Suharto, his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas, and other Indonesian ministers in Jakarta, during which he will discuss ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in several areas, including defense cooperation, Indonesia's possible purchase of uranium from Australia, and an increase in scholarships for Indonesian students in Australia.

The two foreign ministers are likely to discuss the East Timor issue, even though it will not become their top agenda. Downer will raise the sensitive issue just to placate those in Australia who are opposed to the province's integration into the republic.

Downer already held talks on East Timor earlier with Indonesian Ambassador to Australia Wiryono Sastrohandoyo. The two sides agreed that the issue should be discussed in an "open and positive" manner. This is a positive development because Downer criticized the human rights situation in East Timor during his election campaign.

Now we understand that Downer's campaign remarks were actually aimed at attracting voter sympathy. As soon as he assumed his ministerial post, Downer showed that he was no different from his predecessor Gareth Evans and former Prime Minister Paul Keating, who maintained that Australia recognized East Timor's integration into Indonesia and considered that the human rights situation in East Timor was Indonesia's internal affair.

Downer last week announced the three main themes of Australia's foreign policy: first, placing greater emphasis on bilateral relations with Asia-Pacific countries; second, mobilizing more domestic support for a foreign policy that stresses engagement between Australia and Asian countries; third, turning Australia into a place linking Asia, North America, and Europe.

As Indonesia becomes the most important country in Australia's policy to put greater emphasis on bilateral ties with Asia-Pacific countries, we believe that Downer may request Indonesia's approval to open about 17 sea lanes in our territorial waters. Australia needs to get assurance for its warships to pass through these sea lanes so they can sail to South China Sea easily.

Ambassador Wiryono, however, described as "normal, proper, and necessary" Indonesia's plan to limit the passage of commercial and military ships through only three of the country's sea lanes. The three sea lanes are the Sunda Strait, Lombok Strait, and from the Maluku Sea to the Timor and Arafura Seas.

Downer also announced Australia's commitment to strengthen the 19-member ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF] as a vehicle to reduce tension in the Asia-Pacific. He stressed that ARF members must not only talk, but should find practical ways to reduce regional tension in the Taiwan Strait and the Spratly islands.

Downer will also call for the inclusion of India and Vietnam as new APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] members. He will also maintain the previous Australian Government's stand to the effect that Australia should be accepted as an Asian representative in the Asia-Europe Meeting. Downer may also take follow-up actions in support of the Singapore prime minister's proposal that Australia should be allowed to join ASEAN.

We are interested in one of the three main themes of Australia's foreign policy—namely, the policy engagement between Australia and Asian countries. Downer himself said that Australia's closer ties with Asian countries must be based on "the principle of give-and- take and the process of learning and cooperation."

If Downer wants to see the realization of the three main themes, we believe he has a golden opportunity to achieve them in Jakarta. The first step he must take is to learn and understand how President Suharto and Paul Keating, and Ali Alatas and Gareth Evans, forged their close personal ties.

During his stay in Jakarta, Downer will still make efforts to realize a longstanding plan for President Suharto to visit Australia. The Indonesian president himself has extended an unofficial invitation to Prime Minister John Howard to visit Indonesia.

We will be happy to learn that close personal ties between the two countries' leaders will be restored like they were during the previous Australian Government's tenure. In his efforts to forge close personal ties, Paul Keating visited Indonesia six times when he was Australian prime minister, despite diplomatic frictions like the unsuccessful nomination of H.B.L. Mantiri as Indonesian ambassador to Australia and the burning of Indonesian flags in Australia some time ago.

To avoid such friction, we hope that close personal ties between the two countries' leaders and foreign ministers will soon become reality.

Indonesia: Australia's Downer on Bilateral Security Cooperation

LD1604095196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, says there is substantial scope for further security cooperation between Australia and Indonesia. Speaking after meeting President Suharto in Jakarta, Mr. Downer said Australia would be working with the Indonesian government on the security issue. He did not give details but said bilateral discussions would take place over coming months.

Indonesia's foreign minister, Ali Alatas, who attended the meeting, told reporters Mr. Suharto had welcomed Mr. Downer's reiteration of Australia's commitment to engagement with Asia and the bilateral relationship.

Mr. Downer said he had repeated to Mr. Suharto a message that he gave to Mr. Alatas yesterday [15 April] that Australia was interested in constructive diplomacy on the issue of continuing human rights concerns in East Timor. He said the new Howard government in Canberra did not want concerns in Australia about East Timor to overwhelm the relationship with Indonesia. Mr. Downer said the two countries had to work the issue through rather than allow it to descend into some sort of slanging match or an issue of confrontation. Indonesia annexed the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1976 in a move never recognized by the United Nations. Australia is one of only a handful of countries to recognize Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor.

Indonesia: Alatas Discusses East Timor With Australia's Downer

BK1604022096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, says his government will not be hectoring or lecturing Indonesia over human rights. Mr. Downer made his remarks in Jakarta following his first formal meeting with his Indonesian counterpart. Michael Maher reports:

[Begin recording] [Maher] The issue of East Timor dominated Mr. Downer's first round of talks with his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas. The Australian foreign minister said he had made the Indonesian Government aware of Australia's concern about the issue of human rights abuses in East Timor, but that there was no use in hectoring or lecturing Jakarta about the matter.

[Downer] I don't want this issue — as an issue — to be the issue that simply overwhelms the bilateral relationship with Indonesia.

[Maher] Mr. Downer said Australia would continue to support efforts being made by the United Nations to find a solution to the problems in the troubled former Portuguese colony. The Australian foreign minister is scheduled to meet President Suharto today before continuing his talks with Mr. Alatas. [end recording]

Indonesia: Australia's Downer Calls Meeting With Suharto 'Productive'

BK1604060696 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, has held talks with Indonesia's president, Suharto, at the Presidential Office in central Jakarta. Mr. Downer, who is on his first official visit to Indonesia as foreign minister, described the meeting as extremely productive and useful. The foreign minister says he told Mr. Suharto that the new Australian Government under Prime Minister John Howard is firmly committed to positive engagement with Asia and to developing the bilateral relationship between Indonesia and Australia. Mr. Suharto was also told Australia wants to build on security ties in the wake of the mutual security agreement between the two countries signed last December.

Indonesia: Daily Details Shooting Spree at Timika Airport

BK1604051396 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 16 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS — Fifteen people were killed and 13 others injured following a shooting spree by an ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] officer at Timika Airport, Irian Jaya, on 15 April. The officer was believed to be suffering from mental depression. The victims were 10 ABRI personnel, four civilians, and a New Zealand national, who was a pilot of the Airfast private airline. The injured comprised 10 ABRI personnel and three civilians.

Speaking to KOMPAS in Jakarta, New Zealand Consul Mrs. Michele Wood confirmed reports that a New Zealand national had been shot dead in the incident. Wood however said she had no details on the name of the New Zealand national and how got involved in the incident. Meanwhile, KOMPAS learned that the pilot's name was Michael Finlay.

Speaking to reporters in Jakarta on 15 April, Lieutenant General Suyono, chief of ABRI General Staff, said the indiscriminate shooting by the ABRI officer occurred early Monday morning. The officer, a second lieutenant, suddenly shot at his own colleagues inside the hangar, which had been turned into a command post. Among those killed in the hangar were a lieutenant colonel, a major, and a captain. The second lieutenant then ran out of the hangar and starting shooting indiscriminately.

"Initial reports said 12 people were killed and 11 injured, but afternoon reports said 15 were killed and 13 injured," said Suyono. He added that mental depression was the only reason for the tragic shooting. "The depression may be caused by malaria," said Suyono.

Described the incident as a tragedy, Suyono said order was finally restored at about 0700, after the officer was overpowered by his colleagues. Suyono then called on the local people to remain calm and to pay no attention to misleading reports.

Misleading reports

An eyewitness said the shooting took place in the morning when soldiers from several units were about to receive the remains of two soldiers killed earlier in Mapnduma. When the remains were unloaded from the plane, the officer believed to be suffering from depression suddenly opened fire, killing 14 people.

The eyewitness' testimony was dismissed by Brigadier General Amir Syarifudin, chief of ABRI Information Service, saying: "The eyewitness' testimony is misleading. What really happened was that when the second lieutenant woke up in the hangar, which had been turned into a command post after the riots in Timika in March. He then made a lot of noise possibly due to his mental depression. When told by his colleagues to keep quiet, he got upset and started firing at them with his rifle. After that, he ran out of the hangar and started shooting indiscriminately at anyone."

Amir Syarifudin said: "We are still investigating why the officer went into the shooting spree. The initial assumption was that he was suffering from mental depression, which was probably complicated by malaria."

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Suyono confirmed that two ABRI soldiers had been killed by the Irian Jaya GPK [security disturbance movement], but he refused to link the two incidents. "The two ABRI soldiers were killed in northern Irian Jaya, not in Timika," he said.

ABRI regrets the incident

Suyono added ABRI deeply regrets the tragedy and expressed condolences to the families of the victims. He said a special team will be sent to Timika to investigate the causes of the tragedy.

Gloom pervaded at the Kopassus [Special Forces] headquarters in Cijantung yesterday. A flag flew at half-mast and a news conference to mark Kopassus' 44th founding anniversary by Kopassus Commander Brigadier General Prabowo Subianto was delayed for three hours.

Prabowo, who lost several of his officers in the incident, said: "This is indeed a tragedy. I cannot give my comments now because we are still waiting for a complete report." He urged reporters to wait for briefings from higher commands.

One of the Kopassus officers killed in the incident was 37-year-old Lt. Col. Adel Gustinigo, who is survived by a wife and a five-year-old son.

Kopassus Commander Prabowo flew to Irian Jaya yesterday and is unable to attend a today's ceremony to mark the elite force's 44th founding anniversary at Batujajar, Bandung, West Java. Kopassus Deputy Commander Colonel M. Idris Gassing will attend the ceremony in Prabowo's place.

Not ABRI's fault

Theo Syafei, vice chairman of parliament's Commision I, said the shooting incident in Timika was neither the fault of ABRI or Kopassus. Rather, it involved an individual soldier's mental stability. He said no matter how good the selection process for ABRI personnel is, it cannot always detect the psychological weaknesses of each applicant who wants to join ABRI.

Syafei, who served as Udayana regional military commander from 1993 to 1994, said: "If one is selected to be a Kopassus member, he should be able to cope with formidable challenges because he has to go through heavy physical and mental exercises. During these exercises, it can be seen whether an individual develops a high sense of self-restraint." Syafei also expressed surprise that such a person had managed to reach the rank of a second lieutenant. [passage omitted on improved situation in Timika]

Indonesia: Further on Irian Jaya Shooting; Military Buildup Noted

BK1604051496 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 16 Apr 96

[Report by Greg Roberts — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Australian resident is believed to be among at least 14 people shot dead yesterday in a firefight involving Indonesian soldiers at an airport at Timika, in south-western Irian Jaya.

The name of the man, who had New Zealand citizenship and was married to an Australian, has not been released. He was a pilot with an Indonesian airline, Airfast, which services the huge Freeport gold and copper mine 60 kilometres north of Timika.

The slaughter began when an Indonesian lieutenant shot his commanding officer in the hand after an argument broke out in the hangar about 5.30 am, according to sources in Timika and nearby Tembagapura.

The lieutenant then turned a machine-gun on other soldiers and civilians, including the pilot, who had just arrived for work.

In the ensuing crossfire, which lasted several minutes, four non-Irianese civilians and at least 10 soldiers, including the lieutenant, were killed.

Another 15 people were injured, three critically. They were being treated last night in hospitals in Timika and Tembagapura.

"This guy went nuts and shot at anyone around the place," a Timika resident said. "He just lost it completely."

On Sunday, the lieutenant had escorted to Timika the bodies of two soldiers killed near the village of Mapunduma, 150 kilometres north-east of the town.

The soldiers had been hacked to death by villagers. The circumstances surrounding their killings are unclear, but the lieutenant is understood to have complained that his commanders were being too lenient in dealing with supporters of the separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM).

The OPM kidnapped 26 people from Mapunduma in January. Eleven hostages, including six Europeans,are still being held by a group headed by the OPM leader, Kelly Kwalik.

The bodies of the two soldiers were in the Timika hangar waiting to be flown to Jakarta when the shooting broke out.

The massacre coincides with a massive military build-up in the area, with an estimated 2,000 troops flown into Timika over the past fortnight.

Seven helicopter gunships are stationed at the airport, and an Indonesian warship is anchored off the coast nearby. Some observers speculate that the military is planning a new crackdown on OPM supporters in Freeport's vast mine concession area.

Last month, in some of Indonesia's worst civil unrest in recent years, five people died and property worth an estimated $15 million [Australian dollars] was destroyed when riots erupted in Timika and Tembagapura.

Louise Williams in Jakarta writes: The slaughter marks a new phase in the Irian Jayan crisis for the Indonesian Government. Never before has a soldier assigned to the area around the Freeport mine turned his gun on his colleagues.

And it comes only a day after the chairman of Freeport-McMoran Copper and Gold Inc travelled to Timika to offer villagers a greater share of the mine's profits.

The visit by Mr James Moffet sparked a massive security operation and local non-government groups described the atmosphere as tense as Indonesian soldiers guarded every house. There is deep-seated resentment within local communities over the mining operation which has displaced them from their traditional lands.

The Indonesian news agency Antara reported that Freeport would set aside 1 per cent of its annual revenue, or about $US15 million to help local people in Irian Jaya.

Freeport also said it would double the number of indigenous people employed at the mine over the next five years.

Thailand

Thailand: Navy Rescues Thai Trawlers, Arrest SRV Pirates

BK1604052596 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Naval vessels Chaophraya and Saiburi brought ashore two Thai fishing trawlers with 50 crew and two Vietnamese pirates in Songkhla Province yesterday. This followed an incident on 13 April when two Thai trawlers were raided by Vietnamese pirates while fishing in Thai territorial waters. Radio Thailand reporter in Songkhla Province reports:

[Begin recording] On 13 April 1996, three Thai fishing trawlers — Ruangdet owned by Mrs Somsi Thawanruangdet, Thanathip owned by Sophon Chakathi, and Lapmontri owned by Montri Dannathi, all from Pattani Province — were raided by 12 Vietnamese pirates while fishing in Thai territorial waters, 500 nautical miles off Pattani Province. The Thai crew managed to radio Second Naval region patrol ships for help during the raid.

Naval vessels, Saiburi and Chaophraya, engaged the pirates in an exchange of fire, and was successfull in rescuing two of the trawlers, Ruangdet and Thanathip. The third trawler Lapmontri, with 25 crew, dissappeared from sight. The boat was believed to have been possibly lured into Vietnamese territorial waters.

Two Vietnamese pirates have been arrested and an AK rifle and some 50 bullets seized. They are being detained at the Songkhla Naval Base in Songkhla Province for interrogation. Mutchalinthip Tirangkun, correspondent of the Radio Thailand in Songkhla Province, reports. [End recording]

Thai Editorial Views Efforts To Tackle Current Account Deficit

BK1504115296 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Apr 96 p A4

[Editorial: "Pressure Mounting To Curb Alarming Deficit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand are now working on a series of measures to deal with the current account deficit, which has reached a disturbingly high 8.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). But both institutions appear to be tackling the problem from different angles.

The current account deficit refers to the excess in investment in relation to savings with the gap bridged by capital inflows. The deficit has been steadily climbing despite earlier speculation that it would decline due to the strong performance of the export sector — the main foreign exchange earning group. Last year, the deficit made an alarming jump, up from 5.4 per cent of GDP in 1994 to 8.1 per cent or Bt[baht]335.7 billion.

The deficit, according to the Bank of Thailand, is the result of the "trade shock" (1.2 per cent), government imports such as military hardware and aircraft (1.1 per cent) and the rest which it described as "cyclical factors" — meaning anything from lax customs control at Bangkok airport which has allowed Thai tourists to bring in luxury goods without being taxed to unexpected imports made by the business sector.

The growing current account deficit is a prime source of concern to foreign investors in the Thai capital market, foreign bankers and the Bank of Thailand. The Mexico peso crisis heightened international concern about countries such as Thailand which run high current account deficits. The fear is that it could lead to a currency devaluation.

This explains why the government is under pressure to act. The Bank of Thailand, which supervises monetary policies, wants to see some long term solutions. But at the same time it is also wary about action that will jeopardize the long term economic growth of the country, harm its ability to tackle inflation — which is also high at 7.3 per cent, or reduce its influence over capital inflows. In other words, it wants to see implementation of fiscal measures, especially higher taxes on luxury products.

The Finance Ministry sees the root cause of the current account deficit differently. It feels that there is excessive consumption in the economy as witnessed by the high credit growth extended by commercial banks. It thinks that the problem is short term and could be suitably dealt with by monetary measures. It feels that the credit target for banks, currently set at 21 per cent by the Bank of Thailand, should come down slightly — but this would undermine, even if slightly, the monetary liberalization process. Moreover, the ministry is reluctant to be drawn into imposing new tax measures for political reasons.

This is a traditional difference of understanding between the Bank of Thailand and the Finance Ministry, which has usually been more relaxed about allowing deficits to run. It is also a test of political will and strength at a time when Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai has exhausted his popularity and clout with the dismissal of Ekamon Khiriwat as deputy central bank governor. Tax increases usually require the finance minister having strong support from the cabinet but Surakiat has expended his goodwill capital on a less crucial matter.

Other measures being discussed are controlling the issuance of short-term Bills of Exchange, Negotiable Certificates of Deficit and Promissory Notes of less than one year to curb short term borrowing, limiting Thai travellers' foreign expenditure through credit cards, controlling car credit and limiting corporate tax deductions to Bt1 million on car purchases. For the long term, the joint central bank and the Finance Ministry committee has suggested that import taxes on luxury goods should be raised. Then there is the issue of arms spending to be considered if the government wants to display its responsibility.

How the government tackles the current account deficit is being closely watched by foreign investors, local businessmen and political pundits alike. Suitable measures will win back some credibility for the government after a period of turbulence, in particular the still yet to be settled Ekamon saga.

Thailand: 'Source' Questions Cost of Military Satellite Project

BK1504115796 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 14 Apr 96 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A telecommunications industry source told MATICHON that attempts have been made to distort some facts regarding the Defense Ministry's national security satellite project. It is untrue that the X frequency band proposed for use with the satellite can prevent espionage because the only technical difference between the X band and the ordinary C band is that the former uses frequencies ranging from 7 to 10 gigahertz while the latter's frequencies range from 4 to 6 gigahertz. Both bands are able to prevent espionage if encrypted.

The source said: "Attempts have been made to create the misunderstanding that the military satellite's X band can prevent espionage. It is encryption that prevents espionage."

The source noted the problem with the X-band satellite is that the encryption device is extremely expensive compared to the same device for a C-band satellite, which costs only 1 billion baht.

He pointed out that since Thailand must import both the encryption and decryption devices, it cannot control the codes of these devices. For this reason, the X band cannot prevent espionage.

The source disclosed that the approximate cost of 28 billion baht only covers the cost of the satellite and its launching. The amount does not include the cost of the ground station. Therefore, the total budget required for the entire military satellite project is three times higher than the above figure. If an X-band satellite is chosen, the total cost could climb to four times higher.

The source added: "Nobody mentions this extra spending. Apparently, those who have proposed the project are playing tricks. As a normal practice, they will receive a 15 percent commission for the satellite and another 20 percent for the ground station. This is the reason they are trying to propose the X band instead of C and KU bands, which cost less."

The source disclosed that because the military satellite will also incorporate the KU band for commercial purposes, it will be necessary to hold talks with other satellite owners on the prevention of signal interference. Moreover, it will be very difficult to find an orbital position for Thailand's KU-band satellite.

According to a report from Government House, Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai sent a letter to Cabinet Secretary General Witsanu Khrua-ngam saying the Finance Ministry has no objection to the project if other agencies dealing with national security deem it necessary. The allocation of the huge budget of 20 billion baht for the satellite project could affect other government development tasks, however. Therefore, he recommended that the Defense Ministry hold further consultations with the Finance Ministry and Budget Bureau.

Thailand: 'Source' Says Right Frequency Band Can Lower Satellite Cost

BK1504120896 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 14 Apr 96 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report]

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The source said: "Attempts have been made to create a misunderstanding that the military satellite's X band can prevent espionage. It is the encryption that prevents espionage."

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He pointed out that since Thailand has to import both the encryption and decryption devices, it cannot control the codes for the devices. For this reason, the X band cannot prevent espionage.

The source disclosed that approximately 28 billion baht will cover only the cost of the satellite itself and its launching. The amount will not include the cost of the ground station. Therefore, the total budget required for the entire military satellite project will be three times higher than the aforementioned figure. If an X-band satellite is chosen, the total cost could climb as much as four times higher.

The source went on: "Nobody mentions this extra spending. Apparently those who have proposed the project are playing tricks. In normal practice, they will receive a 15 percent commission for the satellite and another 20 percent for the ground station. This is the reason why they are trying to propose the X band instead of the C and KU bands, which cost less."

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Vietnam

SRV Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Thai Counterpart

BK1604101196 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 15 — The Thai Government will continue to attach importance to boosting the comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam, especially in economy, trade and investment, affirmed Thai Foreign Minister [FM] Mr. Kasemsamosan Kasemsi during talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, here today.

The Thai foreign minister arrived here this morning for a four-day official visit, the first to Vietnam by an ASEAN foreign minister since Vietnam became a member of the organisation last year.

During the talks, the two sides discussed orientation and detailed measures for the further promotion of the friendship and multi-lateral cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam, as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam welcomed FM Kasemsi to Vietnam, considering the visit an event of important significance to the relations between the two countries.

On his part, the Thai FM praised the important achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the reform and open-door foreign policy of diversification and multi-lateralisation.

The two FMs expressed their hope that at the coming meeting of the joint committees for economic, scientific and technological cooperation and on re-establishment of order at sea, the two sides would agree on practical measures to expand the bilateral cooperation as well as restore the order at sea.

FM Cam especially stressed Vietnam's demand for respect for its waters and the need to refrain from any acts that may lead to conflict, adversely affecting the relationship between the two counties, particularly in this context that both are members of the ASEAN.

The two sides also expressed [words indistinct] long-term and basic solutions for overlapping sea areas to be reached as soon as possible, and affirmed their wish to actively contribute to ASEAN's activities, the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), and the greater Mekong region.

The two foreign ministers expressed their belief that this Vietnam visit by the Thai foreign minister would contribute to the further promotion of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in the interest of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The Thai foreign minister and his entourage were feted by his host here this evening.

SRV: Nguyen Manh Cam, Thai Counterpart Discuss Rail Network

BK1604054996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Atchara Atchayakachat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has thrown its support for Vietnam's inclusion in a rail network from Singapore to China, said Kopsak Chutikun, director-general of Economic Affairs Department, Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Ministry M.R. [Mom Ratchawong — royal title] Kasemsamoson Kasemsi expressed the support during a three-hour meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam yesterday.

The concept of a regional rail network was initiated by Singapore at the ASEAN summit in December in Bangkok. ASEAN has brought in China, South Korea and Japan into the scheme which was also raised and backed at the recent Asia-Europe meeting in Bangkok.

The network however does not include Vietnam. It is envisioned to start in Singapore and go through major capitals in the region to Beijing.

Mr Kopsak said Thailand proposed that links be established through road connections being developed by Thailand, Laos and Vietnam: Routes 8 and 9.

Route 9 links Mukdahan to Savannakhet, Laos, and Danang, Vietnam.

Route 8 links Nong Khai to Bolikhamsai, Laos, and Vinh in Vietnam.

Both routes are being studied under the so-called Greater Mekong Sub-regional Economic Cooperation spearheaded by the Asian Development Bank.

M.R. Kasemsamoson is on a four-day official visit to Vietnam. He is the first foreign minister from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to visit Hanoi since Vietnam was admitted as a full member last year.

He assured his Vietnamese counterpart the Government has encouraged decent investment in Vietnam and that the "old-style business" was decreasing, according to Mr Kopsak.

On the Vietnamese, side Mr Kopsak said Vietnamese officials had asked for more investment from Thailand. The country currently ranks 13th among foreign investors, with 57 projects worth $468 million.

Mr Cam was quoted as re-emphasising Vietnam's policy of industrialisation and modernisation towards 2000.

"It is beneficial for both sides that Vietnam confirms its open-door policy and economic and financial reforms ahead of the (eighth) congress (of the Communist Party of Vietnam)," said Mr Kopsak.

Other issues raised include ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum which this year will admit two new participants — India and Burma — and the follow-up of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Mr Cam was quoted as telling M.R. Kasemsamoson the border conflict with Cambodia would be resolved soon, and that the issue had emerged from an internal affair between the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Cambodian People's Party.

M.R. Kasemsamoson is scheduled to meet Vietnamese Minister of Planning and Investment Do Quoc Sam, and later pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He leaves for Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon, and returns Thursday.

Details of the fisheries issue, which remains a thorn in relations, were left for experts from the two countries who are meeting later this month for the Joint Commission on economic cooperation in Chiang Mai.

"We do not want to see the use of naval forces in the fisheries sector," said Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 4

BK1204092096 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Fourth installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming eighth national party congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Part Two: Objectives Until 2020 and 2000

I. General Background.

1. Review of the international situation:

The renovation, national construction, and protection undertaking is progressing against the background of a world that is changing at a rapid pace and in a complicated manner, with many unpredictable factors.

Some of the salient points are:

— With the collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, socialism in general has suffered a temporary setback. These events do not change the essential characteristics of our times, however. Humanity is still living in the transitional period between capitalism and socialism. Capitalist conflicts continue to exist and develop in new forms, and in some aspects these conflicts are mounting to a considerable extent. National and class struggles continue in various forms. The danger of a destructive world war has been pushed back, but armed conflicts, regional wars, ethnic and religion conflicts, the production and trafficking of weapons, arms races, interventionist and subversive activities, and terrorism still occur in many places.

— The scientific and technological revolution is developing at an increasingly rapid pace, accelerating many fundamental changes in world economic mechanisms. Production activities and social life are being globalized. Development opportunities are open to all countries, but because all the advantages in capital, technology, markets, and so forth belong to industrialized capitalist countries and multinational companies, the underdeveloped and developing countries face enormous challenges. The gap between rich and poor countries is widening. Competition in economics, trade, science, and technology is becoming more vigorous. The world community is now facing many problems of global significance such as environmental protection, limiting the population explosion, and the prevention and repression of diseases. No single country can solve these problems without multilateral cooperation from others.

— The Asia-Pacific region is developing dynamically and will continue to maintain this development pace. The trend of trade liberalization and the expansion of economic coalition, cooperation, and competition is developing. Nevertheless, the region is also strongly influenced by powerful countries and contains elements that might cause instability.

In the field of international relations there are various major trends that can be listed as follows:

— Peace, stability, and cooperation for development have become urgent demands of all peoples and nations in the world;

— All countries give a high priority to economic development, considering it a decisive factor in creating general strength;

— Countries participate more actively in regional and international cooperation and cooperate in economics, trade, and other fields;

— Cooperation is developing but competition has become vigorous and fierce;

— People have a higher awareness of national independence, self-determination, and rejection of intervention and coercion by foreigners;

— The socialist countries, communist and workers parties, and revolutionary forces in the world continue to fight resolutely for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress;

— Nations under different political regimes cooperate and struggle simultaneously under the principle of peaceful coexistence.

The aforementioned characteristics and trends are the harbingers of the multilateral and diversified international relations practiced by many countries. The regional and world situation also has a profound impact on various aspects of our society, providing us with important opportunities and considerable difficulties.

2. Opportunities and challenges:

The achievements of our renovation undertaking are creating new stature and strength, both domestically and internationally, for us to move into the new development period. The essential premises for modernization and industrialization have been fulfilled. Our relations with countries in the world are being expanded more rapidly than ever. Our ability to safeguard national independence and self-determination and to integrate into the world community has been strengthened.

These are important opportunities for us, but the four risks mentioned by the midterm national party conference in January 1994 remain the major challenges for us. These risks are interrelated and should be considered extremely dangerous. The risk of lagging further behind other countries in the region economically remains a major and serious risk due to our very low starting position and having to fight our way in a fiercely competitive environment. There are still forces plotting to use peaceful evolution under the guise of democracy and human rights to interfere in our internal affairs. The arms race and struggle for influence in the Asia-Pacific region and the situation in the East Sea [South China Sea] remain complicated. Deviations from socialism together with officialdom and corruption are still truly serious risks. Officialdom, corruption, and degraded moral standards among a portion of cadres and party members are weakening the party and state apparatuses, testing people's trust in the party and the regime, averting the implementation of party and state lines and policies, and providing a fertile ground for peaceful evolution to develop.

Advantages, difficulties, opportunities, and risks intertwine and have an impact on development. The key rule for us is to grab opportunities, attain rapid and firm development, and create new stature and strength. At the same time, we should always stay alert and resolute in our determination to repress all risks — including those arising later — to ensure the right path for development.

It is necessary to pay proper attention to factors that would allow opportunities to slip away from us. If we allow ourselves to make mistakes in external relations, if socioeconomic management is allowed to remain at an inferior level and disputes among people are not handled in a timely and fair way, if the contingent of cadres does not receive adequate training up to the level required by their duties, and if we let corruption develop to an uncontrollable level that causes political instability, then we are letting opportunities slip away and helping risks develop.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 5

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[Fifth installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Part Three: Orientations for developing various key domains

I. Developing and effecting change in economic structures in line with industrialization and modernization.

Efforts must be made to thoroughly understand the following points concerning industrialization and modernization:

Industrialization and modernization must be carried out along the socialist path and in the direction of firmly maintaining national defense and sovereignty. It must be carried out in parallel with the expansion of international cooperation, the promotion of multilateral and diversified relations with foreign countries, and the building of an open economic system that can integrate with the region and the world to accelerate exports and replace imports with effectively manufactured domestic goods.

Industrialization and modernization is an undertaking by all the people and by all economic components, in which the state economy plays the major role and is operated within the market mechanism under state management. We must take the development of human resources as a fundamental factor for rapid and lasting development in other fields, mobilize people throughout the country to practice thrift and build the nation, and increase accumulation for developing investment. Efforts to increase economic growth must be combined with those to improve the people's livelihood, develop culture and education, ensure social progress and justice, and protect the environment.

Science and technology are the foundation of industrialization and modernization. It is essential to combine traditional with modern technologies, while striving to apply modern technologies to various decisive areas. We must use socioeconomic achievement as a basic standard for determining development programs and selecting industrial investment projects. In-depth investment must be made to optimally exploit the existing production capabilities. In the new development program, we should give preferential treatment to medium- and small-scale modern industries that can quickly recover capital, while striving to build a number of very essential and effective large-scale projects. We must create key points for each stage of development, appropriately integrate sources of energy for various domains and key areas, and strive to meet the essential requirements of all regions in the country. We should formulate policy to assist areas with difficulties, create conditions for all areas to develop simultaneously, and combine the economic task with those of national defense and security.

The fundamental content of industrialization and modernization for the remaining years of the 90's is that special attention should be paid to: industrializing and modernizing the agriculture and rural economy; comprehensively developing the agro-forestry-fishery sector in close association with agricultural, forestry, and maritime product processing; developing the consumer and export goods industries; expanding trade, tourism, and services in cities and the countryside; and accelerating foreign economic activities. Great efforts must be made to upgrade, develop, expand, and rebuild various economic infrastructures in pivotal areas, especially in the jammed and weakest zones that create a blockage to development.

It is necessary to build a number of selected heavy industrial establishments of various key branches that are in urgent demand, that have acquired capital, technology, and markets, and that can develop quickly to achieve great economic results. We must strive to vigorously develop research and apply scientific-technological innovations to education, training, cultural and information activities, public health, sports and physical education, and environmental protection, while satisfactorily carrying out the population and family planning task.

Efforts should be made to gradually establish a number of key sectors, such as agro-forestry-fishery products processing, oil and gas exploitation and processing, engineering manufacturing, and electronic, communications, and tourist industries.

1. We must vigorously and comprehensively develop the agro-forestry-fishery sector along the large-scale production line and in close association with product processing industries to make them increasingly advanced and modern. We should attach importance to grain production to ensure sufficient grain for the nation in the immediate future and on a long-term basis. By the year 2000, we should produce 30 million tonnes of grain converted to its paddy equivalent. It is essential to: effect change on the agricultural production structure in keeping with the rapid increase in areas for industrial and fruit crops; develop animal husbandry into a key sector to account for 30-35 percent of the agricultural production value in the year 2000; accelerate hydroelectric power projects; carry out step-by-step the mechanization and electrification of the countryside; widely utilize biotechnology; make more investment in protecting and developing forests and in covering fallow land and bare hills with greenery; increase forestry area to 40 percent; appropriately exploit forest resources; complete land allocation to households; expand aquaculture and fisheries; rationally exploit the coastal region's income sources; and go farther into the open sea to fish in order to achieve an output of 2 million tonnes by the year 2000.

The development of the processing industry, small industry, and handicrafts in the countryside and in marketplaces and towns must be linked with the available natural resources and with those industries in large cities. Efforts must be made to develop various occupations, especially the production of export goods and service forms and to create a new countryside in such areas as communications, water conservancy, housing, schools, public health stations, information and cultural establishments, electric and water supply, and telephone installation. We must: adjust the distribution of capital; mobilize more money to markedly increase the state's investment capital and credits for agro-forestry-fishery and rural economy development; formulate policies to encourage and assist peasants by reducing taxes and the price of agricultural products and materials; and promote technological transfer and the use of land and water.

2. Priority must be given to developing: the processing industry—mainly the processing of grain and foodstuffs; the manufacture of commodities and exports; the machinery manufacturing industry; the electronics industry; and the information industry.

It is necessary to exploit our advantages in natural resources and to seize opportunities to mobilize local and foreign capital for the selective development of certain heavy-industry establishments trying to ensure that production output is increased in proportion with the demands of economic growth and that overlapping funds are planned for major projects carried over in ensuing years.

By the year 2000, we will produce some 1 million tonnes of sugar, 500 million meters of fabric, 300,000 tons of paper, 16 million tonnes of crude oil, 3.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas, 30 billion kilowatts of electricity, 10 million tons of clean coal, between 16-20 million tonnes of cement, 1.2 million tonnes of phosphate, 950,000 tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizer, and 2 million tonnes of steel.

We must link economic construction with national defense and must build and develop the defense industry in order to meet the minimum requirements needed for each given period and to ensure the fighting strength of the armed forces.

3. We must overcome the degradation of the existing road network; restore, upgrade, and open more main communications lines; and open more roads leading to inaccessible and remote areas.

We must continue to develop and modernize the national communications and liaison network and bring telephone communications to almost all the villages.

We must develop power sources and the power grid and meet the requirements of a stable power supply.

We must improve the water supply in cities and better clean the water supply in the countryside.

We must increase investment in the infrastructure—covering education, public health, science, culture, information, and sports.

4. We must promptly develop tourism and such services as air and maritime transportation, post and telecommunications, trade, transportation, finance, banking, auditing, insurance, technology, legal, information, and other services in support of the people's livelihood.

We must gradually turn our country into a tourist, commercial, and services center in the region.

5. We must rationally develop various areas.

We must effect changes in the territorial economic structure on the basis of thoroughly exploiting the advantages and potential of all regions and promoting an integrated and mutual-support system between various regions, in an attempt to help all regions flourish.

We must make necessary investment in nucleus cities and in key economic zones in order to spur the development of the entire economy.

If we are to create faster progress and gradually reduce the large socioeconomic development gap between regions, we must reserve the appropriate resources for tackling urgent needs, particularly those of our socioeconomic infrastructure, so that those less- developed areas—especially those high mountain areas, offshore islands, areas inhabited by ethnic minority compatriots, inaccessible areas and former revolutionary base areas—can experience visible changes for the better. We must regard this as a main guideline for various sectors and echelons.

Specific attention must be given to linking marine economic development with the maintenance of national security and defense.

6. We must expand and improve the efficiency of foreign economic relations.

We must increase exports and must regard exports as a priority direction and a key point of foreign economic relations.

We must create more major export products, improve the competitiveness of our exports on the market, reduce the export of raw or semi-processed products, increase the export of fully and finely-processed products, promptly accelerate the export of services, increase the value-added proportion of export value, and gradually reduce import deficits in the advance toward achieving a balance between exports and imports.

We must readjust our market structure so as to achieve regional and global integration. We must properly address the issue of interests between us and our partners.

We must take the initiative in joining the international trade community, as well as various international forums, organizations, and institutions, in a selective fashion with appropriate steps.

The use of borrowed capital and capital investment must be made in accordance with sectoral and regional development programs and plans.

We must be thoroughly aware of the motto: "Domestic Capital is Decisive and Foreign Capital is Important." We must, however, deal flexibly with the specific relations between local and foreign capitals, trying to ensure the implementation of those targeted tasks already set forth.

We must carefully project our loans-securing and debt-serving capabilities in such a way that we can use our loans effectively and can repay our debts. We must improve our balance of payment and increase our foreign reserves.

We must clearly define and ensure the implementation of the duties and rights between the foreign debt management organ on one side and loan seekers and loan users on the other. We must conduct try out before moving forward to invest in foreign countries.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 6

BK1404091196 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Sixth installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central

Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] II. Policies on economic sectors: We should firmly uphold socialist orientations while developing the multisectorial economy. To utilize the liberation of production forces and to mobilize to the maximum all domestic and foreign resources for industrialization and modernization and to heighten socioeconomic efficiency. To improve the people's livelihood is one of the leading goals of the policy to encourage development of different economic elements and diversify business and production organizations.

To reform, develop, and heighten the efficiency of the state and cooperative economic sectors. The state economic sector should play the leading role, and together with cooperative economic sectors should become the foundation of the economy. To create favorable economic and legal conditions so that private businessmen feel assured of their long-term investments and businesses. To develop different types of joint ventures between the state and private economic sectors inside the country and abroad, and the state capitalist economy. To confirm, consolidate, and heighten the mastery of laborers in social production. To continue improving social justice. To exercise different forms of distribution, using labor productivity and economic efficiency as the central ones. Other distribution methods include distribution based on contributions to alternate sources of production and business efficiency, and distribution of social benefits.

To acknowledge the long-term existence of various forms of labor employment, but the relationship should not become one of domination, which causes social polarization and division. To distribute and redistribute income in reasonable ways, encourage the legal amassing of wealth in parallel with efforts to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty, and to prevent excessive disparities in living standards and development levels between regions and people of various strata. To strengthen efficiency in macro management of the state, especially in limiting, rectifying, and holding off the adverse effects of the market mechanism. To safeguard national independence and sovereignty, and protect national interests in external economic relations. To implement the following policies and measures on the different economic sectors:

1. To continue to renovate and consolidate the state economic sector so that it can fulfill its leadership role and provide a leverage for development and rectification of social problems. The state economic sector should lead, guide, and support other economic elements in their development. It should also serve as the physical force for the state to exercise management, and as the foundation for the new social regime. It will focus resources for the development of the state economic sector in major areas such as socioeconomic infrastructure, the financial and monetary system, banking, insurance, and important production, trade, and service activities, as well in businesses related to national defense and security. State enterprises in general are middle- and large-sized establishments with modern technologies and the ability to attract large revenue for the state budget. To renovate and strengthen state economic activities in distribution and circulation. To develop the central role of state economic sector in economics, science, technology, and culture, in the agro-forestry-fishery industries, especially in mountain and remote areas, islands, and ethnic minority areas.

To review the experiences learned from pilot projects to develop a steady plan for the equitization of state enterprises for the purposes of capital mobilization, the improvement of business efficiency, accumulation of state assets, and not for the purpose of privatization. In addition to 100-percent state-owned enterprises, there will be enterprises where the state owns a majority or a controlling number of shares. To increase the shareholding or to sell shares to laborers in enterprises or organizations and outside individuals, according to the conditions of each particular case. The money mobilized from the share sale must be used to expand production and business operations. To work out a proper formula for general corporations to avoid the segmentation of forces and industrial monopolies.

2. Cooperative economic activity is a form of voluntary cooperation between laborers. It combines collective capacity with that of individuals to deal with production and business demands at a higher efficiency. Cooperatives should be diversified in type and level, and be built on the principles of voluntarism, equality, mutual benefit, and democratic management. Cooperatives are established by shares contributed by members who receive benefits, which are then calculated on the basis of the shares or labor they contribute. All cooperative members have equal rights in the management of cooperatives. The state will assist in the development of cooperatives.

3. Individual and small handicraft sectors are long-term and important parts of the economy. Individual and handicraft sectors should be given aid to solve difficulties and develop their potential. They should also be encouraged and aided in developing themselves gradually into cooperative economic activities, either by being satellite enterprises for state enterprises or becoming cooperatives.

4. Private capitalists are encouraged to invest in production with a long-term commitment. Their rights of possession and legitimate interests are protected. Favorable conditions will be created for all businesses. Business management and guidance are to be strengthened to help all businesses operate within the bounds of the laws and to serve the national economy. Business owners are encouraged to sell preferential shares to the workers in their businesses. The cooperation between workers and employers is established on the basis of ensuring the legitimate interests of both sides.

5. The state capitalist economy includes all forms of joint ventures between the state economy and local or foreign capitalists. The state capitalist economy plays an important role in the mobilization of the great potential of capital, technology, and management skills of all capitalists in the interest of the socialist construction undertaking. It is necessary to develop the state economy in various forms by applying different methods of capital contribution between the state and local businessmen to create a good position and the force for Vietnamese business to expand and increase its cooperation competitive powers with the outside world.

III. Continuing To Renovate the Economic Management Structure.

From the reality of more than the last 10 years, it is possible to confirm some important conceptions of the new economic management structure. Commodity production is not the only product of capitalism. It is not contradictory to socialism, but it is a progressive period of civilization. It exists objectively, and it is necessary for the socialist construction undertaking. In our multisectorial economy, the market under socialist direction is a united body with different forces participating in production and circulation, while the state economy plays a leading role.

The local market is attached to the international market. The market is both a base and a subject of the planning. Planning mainly assumes a directional characteristic. The market plays the role of providing direct guidance for economic units to choose the field of operation in business planning. Making use of the market structure must go together with the fuller development of the directional function and macromanagement of socioeconomic activities to ensure the rapid and stable development of the economy.

Making use of the market structure requires the enhancement of the state's management capacity and the full recognition of the independence of all economic units in order to develop the great and positive effects and to prevent, limit, and overcome the negative aspects of the market. The state manages the market with laws, planning, structures, policies, economic leverage instruments, and the material force of the state economy. From now until the year 2000, the program on renovation of the economic management structure must be implemented with the goal to eliminate the management system of centralism, bureaucracy, and subsidy and to set up a relatively uniform market structure with the state management under socialist direction.

1. The uniform establishment of market factors: The commodity and service market must continue to develop and expand for the fine circulation of goods throughout the entire country. The market for technologies and information, consultant, marketing, legal, financial, banking, auditing, insurance, and guaranty services are to be developed strongly. The market must become healthy, the underground economy will be overcome, and legal violations in business will be checked, controlled, and dealt with strictly. Healthy competition must go together with the acceleration of cooperation. The state monopoly will be implemented in certain sectors and fields for the national interests. Business monopolies will be limited. The exploitation of monopolies to maintain privileges and special benefits and to manipulate the market is unacceptable. Activities of trading organizations in all economic sectors will be corrected. The state trading system will be reformed to develop the leading role in this field. The rural market will be given special attention.

The labor market will be satisfactorily organized. Ensuring employment for all citizens is our first social target. Unemployment must not be allowed to become a chronic illness. The government concentrates on investment to generate more jobs. At the same time, it will create favorable conditions for all economic sectors and the working people to create more jobs. All organizations and individuals are encouraged to work with the government in organizing the employment service and vocational training.

In the labor market, the workers and their employers are equal before the law. The government is to check and control the hiring, use of, and payment for labor to ensure the execution of regulations on labor protection and safety and the fine relationship between workers and their employers and to protect the legitimate interests of the working people. The government continues to improve the policy on wages and rewards in the state sector. It will introduce policies to direct and regulate wages in the entire society. Social security will be applied for the working people in all economic sectors.

The land and the housing market will be closely managed. All land has been placed under state ownership. It is not going to be privatized and the trading of land is not acceptable. The Law on Land must be correctly observed. The correct value of various types of land must be established in granting land certificates or in renting land. The land must be used efficiently. The total area of land under state management must be maintained and developed to protect the national interests and overcome land speculation.

The government must take care to provide housing for the people, especially in new urban areas. It will positively develop and satisfactorily manage the housing market. State enterprises for housing construction and trading will be expanded. All economic sectors are encouraged to build more houses to live in, sell, or rent in conformity with city planning and architecture. Housing under state management will be transferred to business management.

The capital and the stock exchange markets will be built step-by-step. The capital market will be developed in various forms to attract long-term deposits to the banks and financial companies for investment loans. Necessary conditions have been prepared for the gradual building of the stock exchange market to mobilize and efficiently use all capital resources. The stock exchange market must operate in a healthy manner suitable to Vietnamese conditions and the national direction of socioeconomic development.

2. Perfecting the legal system on the economy: New laws will be promulgated and current laws and regulations will be amended and supplemented to continue to institutionalize the party's platform, strategy, and policies.

3. Continuing the renovation of the planning work: State planning must thoroughly conform to the party's line and policies to: introduce a system of targets at the macromanagement level; define the development rate, structure, and major balances; and choose the best solutions and financial policies to ensure the economy is moving as planned. More efforts must be exerted to build a development strategy and plan big projects for the entire country and for each sector, locality, and field. Five-year plans with yearly increments will be created to help reduce the number of yearly plans created and approved. The planning must truly reflect the activities of all economic sectors.

4. Renovating financial, monetary, and price policies.

The financial policy must aim at improving the efficient use of all resources, increasing savings for development investment, ensuring uniform management of the state finance system, and correctly dealing with major relations and balances. These are the relations and balances between: savings and consumption; state finance, business finance, and residential finance; central budgets and local budgets; regular expenditures and spending on development investment and spending on national defense and security; attraction of local capital and foreign capital; and loans and debt payment.

Efforts should be made to use capital sources for development investment in the most effective ways, practice thrift, reduce unnecessary expenditures in enterprises, and diversify the methods of capital mobilization. We should: employ farsighted views while working out collection plans and pay proper attention to the protection of long-term revenue sources; and reform tax policies using the principles of simplicity, fairness, and the encouragement of lawful business and production. We should also ensure reasonable proportions for state budget levies and create favorable conditions for enterprises to accumulate capital to invest for expansion, thus widening revenue sources.

More preferential treatment for development investment and for disadvantaged regions should be exercised. All regulations of accounting, auditing, and financial control and inspection should be strictly observed. A review of monetary and banking policies should be carried out to make them suitable for the market mechanism. The stabilization of the value of the Vietnamese currency should receive proper attention to maintain a low rate of inflation and reasonable exchange rates. Efficiency in capital mobilization and loan management should be strengthened.

The Central State Bank has the main responsibility for inflation control, stabilizing the currency value, managing foreign currencies and gold, maintaining exchange rates that reflect the true purchase power of the currency, and encouraging exports while regulating imports. It should have a reasonable and automatic foreign exchange management policy in order to subdue the situation of the dollarization [doo la hoas] of monetary circulation and give full monetary value to the Vietnamese dong. It should renovate and perfect the management of the gold price system.

5. To heighten the capacity and efficacy of the state in economic management: The state has a role in guiding development, investing directly in certain fields to lead the development. The state sets up a uniform legal structure and suitable policies for the development of the economy and for the profitable operation of all economic sectors. The state also works actively to limit the negative effects of the market mechanism, reorganize state enterprises, manage public assets, and control all social distribution work.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 7

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[Seventh installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] IV. Developing Science and Technology and Education and Training.

1. Science and technology:

The scientific and technological activities of our country in the upcoming period will have to focus on the following orientations:

— Creatively apply and develop Marxism-Leninism and the Ho Chi Minh ideology;

— Develop the social sciences and humanities, as well as natural sciences and technologies, as a scientific basis for the implementation of the political platform and the Constitution, and the formulation of laws and socioeconomic policies, plans, and programs;

— Step up research projects that apply the results of natural sciences and modern technologies to all sectors of production, business, services, and management;

— Acquire high technology, such as communication, biology, and new material technologies, and new motor manufacturing technologies, in order to implement the modernization program in key domains at an early date;

— Secure scientific and technological bases to exploit, reasonably and economically, the use of natural resources;

— Protect the ecological environment;

— Correctly evaluate all sources of natural resources and use those results to develop an adequate strategy for exploiting, using, and preserving natural resources;

— Use modern technology to control, evaluate, and cope with the effect of the environment, giving first priority to technologies that guarantee a clean environment and require fewer raw materials and less fuel;

— Work out scientific methods and adopt technological measures to reduce the consequences of natural disasters;

— Pay due attention to basic research on social sciences and the humanities and natural sciences, and use the results as a sustainable mainstay for research projects targeted at the application, development, and absorption of newly emerging sciences;

— Build the potential to catch up with modern science and technology by using the wisdom, creativity, and spirit of self-sufficiency of the Vietnamese people;

— Systematically build and implement a uniform policy and mechanism to promote science and technology. As practical objectives, efforts must be made to: create a market for scientific and technological activities, encourage the operations of business establishments — particularly major state business organizations — improve technologies, and transfer most researchers to business establishments;

— Diversify the sources of capital investment in scientific and technological activities and establish credit funds and scientific and technological development investment banks;

— Launch a powerful movement among the masses to engage in creative labor in scientific and technological research and application; and

— Inspire in the people — especially the young — patriotism, dauntlessness, and a determination to develop the Vietnamese people's intellectual capacity in order to bring the country out of poverty and backwardness by using science and technology.

2. Education and training.

Education and training are also part of the key national policy needed to improve the people's intellectual standard, train personnel, and foster people of talent. Equal importance must be given to quantity, quality, and efficiency. There is an immediate need to adopt firm policies and measures in order to save our education and training from deteriorating. There is also an immediate need to ensure that by the year 2000, the majority of five-year-olds will have access to preschool education, and that everyone between 15 and 35 will be literate; the illiteracy rates in other age groups must also be reduced. Steps must be taken to standardize primary education throughout the country, beginning with children aged 6 to 14, and to standardize junior secondary education in major cities, and certain industrial centers. The state will work out policies guaranteeing learning opportunities for children of entitlement families and poor households.

Efforts must be made to broaden the curriculum of vocational training schools and courses for training skilled workers; encourage different forms of vocational training in business establishments; improve the vocational and college education system to train personnel who are capable of acquiring advanced and modern technologies; develop post-graduate education; build a contingent of intellectuals who have a solid knowledge of science and technology, culture, art, and economic and social management; quickly form a contingent of qualified public servants and state employees with a view to raising the efficiency of the administrative system at all levels; train a pool of capable enterprise managers; increase the ration of trained labor from the current 10 percent to 22-25 percent; raise the educational and professional standards of women; and consolidate the contingent of women cadres.

Education goals, structures, contents, and programs will be further defined. Education methods will be renovated. Fundamental and modern education contents will be selected.

All citizens will be educated on world views, science, and patriotism to nurture aspirations and willpower for individual advancement and national contribution. The education on Marxist-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, human studies, and national cultural characteristics will be provided to everyone. The spirit of civilization will be adopted. Modern methods will be applied to training.

The contingent of teachers and educational management cadres will be trained and nurtured. Teachers will be hired and paid in accordance with their capacity, under the spirit that teachers will be given special privileges.

All party committees, local authorities, mass organizations, and businesses will develop more responsibility for education and training. State systems and policies on education and training will be established and perfected.

The percentage of budget funding for education and training will be gradually increased to about 4 percent of the GDP by the year 2000. Resources from all communities and the public, including from businessmen inside and outside the country, will be mobilized to help support education and training. International cooperation in education and training will be accelerated.

V. Building a Modern Culture With National Characteristics.

The key aim of culture and literature is to contribute to building ideology, morality, spirit, sentiment, and a lifestyle for the Vietnamese people. All current and future cultural and literary activities must build and develop our modern culture with national characteristics, inherit and expand moral and aesthetic values and national cultural heritage, and protect and restore historic and cultural relics and tourist attractions.

In our market-oriented economy and international exchanges, we must give special attention to preserving and upgrading the national characteristics of our culture. All fine moral traditions and customs, conscience of our origin, and national pride must be inherited and developed. The psychology of respecting money, disregarding morality, and ignoring humanity values must be overcome.

The quintessence of other nationalities will be adopted to enrich the Vietnamese culture, but the alien influence and unselected mixture must be prevented. Fighting must be waged against the invasion of poisonous and harmful cultures.

Cultural activities must be satisfactorily managed. All special characteristics of ethnic culture and arts in our country will be exploited and developed in order to create unity in the diverseness and abundance of our Vietnamese culture.

The system of information, press, publication, radio, television, film, and other arts will be developed and satisfactorily managed to enhance the cultural knowledge and enjoyment of our people in all areas. We will provide guidance for the public on how to conduct their lifestyle in line with fine customs and tradition, social order, and state laws.

Democracy and freedom will be ensured in cultural creativity and activity. People of talent will be fostered; at the same time, the responsibility of writers and artists will be heightened.

All literary and artistic creativity will reflect new elements in society and will promote good things among the people. The relationship between the people and society and nature will be encouraged. The bad and cruel will be criticized and condemned. The true, the good, and the beautiful will be saved. Cultural elements and the human spirit will be introduced in all social aspects, ranging from relations within the family, school, and society to production and business activities.

Vietnamese families must be built into prosperous, progressive, and happy units. The family must be a cozy home for everybody. The responsibility of the family in the preservation of cultural values to the next generation will be heightened.

The Law on Marriage and Family must be satisfactorily implemented. The movement of good people and good deeds and the healthy and civilized lifestyle must be promoted in order to establish new social standards and values to conform with our national tradition and characteristics and the requirements of the current era.

Cultural building is a common duty for the entire society. The cultural and art activities of the state, community, and individuals must be developed under the party's line and the state's management.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 8

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[Eighth installment of draft political report to be submitted by the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text]

VI. Policies Towards Social Problems:

The system of social policies is set up on the bases of the following perceptions:

— Economic growth must be connected with social progress and fairness at every step, as well as in the whole development process;

— Social fairness must be reflected in all stages of the distribution of production means, the distribution of production output, and in the creation of favorable conditions for the development of the production ability of all community members;

— Distribution must be implemented in various forms, with the distribution methods based on labor productivity and economic efficiency as the basic ones. Other distribution methods include those that are based on contributions of other production sources, on production and business outcomes, and the distribution of social benefits. Reasonable regulating policies must be implemented in parallel with these distribution policies to protect the interests of the workers;

— The state encourages the amassing of wealth legally and in parallel with the implementation of policies to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty. Efforts will be made to minimize gaps in development and living standards between regions, ethnic groups, and strata of people;

— The state strives to develop the national traditions of honoring gratefulness and showing gratitude to people who make great contributions. Social policies must be implemented in the spirit of socialization. The state will take the central role while encouraging every citizen, business establishment, social organization, and individual and organization from overseas to participate in solving social problems.

In the years to come, efforts should be focused on the following social problems:

— Creation of employment: The most important direction is for the state, together with all the people, to strive for higher development investment and the sound implementation of socioeconomic programs. All economic elements, citizens, and households are encouraged to invest in the development of trades and professions, thus creating more jobs for working people. All citizens are free to practice their trades and to hire workers in accordance with the law. The state also encourages: the development of employment services; the continuation of programs of reallocation of residents and the work force on a nationwide scale; increases in the population of localities with strategic economic or national defense importance; expansion of external economic activities; and acceleration of labor exports. Efforts should be made to significantly reduce unemployment rates in urban areas and job shortages in rural areas.

— We should strive to implement satisfactorily policies to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty, to show gratitude and repay sacrifices, to provide social insurance, and to develop humanitarian and charity activities. Policy aimed at the elimination of hunger and the reduction of poverty should focus especially on areas that are former revolutionary bases and areas with minority ethnic groups. Funds to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty should be built up with contributions from various sources, from both inside and outside the country. Social organizations in each locality should be run in such a way that the people's livelihood is continually improved even when earnings per capita are still limited. We should strive for a typical model of a village, with complete electricity facilities, public road systems, schools, medical stations, and clean water systems.

— We should implement successfully the decree that stipulates treatment for people who have made meritorious contributions. We should ensure that people who have made meritorious contributions to the country and the revolution have living standards that at least are equal to the average living standards of the people in their own localities. The movement to show gratitude to and care for war invalids and the families of war martyrs should be widened.

— Social benefit policies should be continued and perfected. The stable livelihood of retired people should be guaranteed. The social security law should be built up and continually improved.

— Humanitarian and charity activities will be boosted. Policies should be worked out to support children who are orphans or, in difficult circumstances, isolated elderly people, war victims, and disabled people. A charity fund will be set up with contributions partly from the state budget and the remainder from all elements of the society. A law to support disabled persons and orphaned children will be created. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Vietnam is a signatory, should be implemented seriously. Victims of natural disasters and other misfortunes should be supported.

Care for people's physical conditions: Regarding public health services, we should strive, until the year 2000, to reduce malnutrition and the rate of disease, rectify the consequences of war related to health, reduce congenital deformities, improve the basic standard of people's health—especially that of mothers and children—prolong average longevity, and reduce the death rate.

— The state public health system should continue to be developed, especially the networks of medical facilities in villages and districts. Medical examination and treatment should be given free of charge to families who are social benefit recipients and to poor people. State investment in public health, as well as other financial sources, will be increased, including the development of health insurance and international cooperation, which will be sought for the public health sector. The state encourages and strives to manage the preventive health care activities provided by organizations and individuals, encourages traditional medical studies, and encourages a policy to control the production of medicine and medical equipment for domestic use as well as for export. The state will have effective policies to attract more medical personnel, especially for disadvantaged and remote localities. Efforts should be made to prevent the quality deterioration of medical facilities and services, including the quality of equipment and services and the attitude of the staff. The management of the collection and use of medical fees should be rectified in order to avoid negativity in medical and pharmaceutical activities. Medical ethics should be promoted in the spirit of the slogan: "A doctor is like a tender mother."

— Efforts should be made to promote widely the practices of environmental and food hygiene. Sports and physical exercise activities should be upgraded to the nationwide level, first among the youth and students. Professional sporting activities should be promoted. The efficiency and quality of physical education in schools should be heightened.

— Population and family planning work should be intensified. Clear indications of positive change should be seen in this decade in the direction of each couple only having one or two children. The population growth rate should not exceed 1.8 percent by the year 2000, for the purpose of population stabilization in the first half of next century. The organization of the population and family planning structure needs to be consolidated, and the family planning services network should be developed to the grassroots level, especially in rural and mountain areas.

— Suppression of social vices: The causes of each social vice should be studied in order to find effective measures, including education, economic, administrative, and legal measures to prevent and suppress gambling, drug abuse, and prostitution.

VII. National defense and security:

Major duties for the years to come are:

— The general strength of all people and the political system should be developed. National defense and security potential should be strengthened step-by-step. We should strive for the building of a steadfast all-people national defense system and all-people national defense tactics combined with people security tactics.

— The quality of the armed forces should be heightened so that they are able to firmly protect national independence and security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as to protect the people, the party, and the socialist regime.

— We must effectively prevent and crush all plots and activities of peaceful evolution and subversive violence and be ready to deal with any other complicated situations that could arise.

— We should strive to halt and punish all criminal activities in order to create a clear change for the better in social order and safety.

In order to implement successfully the national defense and security duties, we should thoroughly grab hold of the following guiding ideas:

— The two strategic duties of the Vietnamese revolution should be closely combined: Building socialism and protecting the socialist fatherland.

— Economic, national defense, and security activities should be effectively combined. National defense and security duties are closely related. They are the two closely interconnected sides of the duty to protect the socialist fatherland in the new situation.

— The consolidation of national defense and the maintenance of national security are regular and essential duties of all people and the state.

— The general strength of all people and the political system should be developed in order to strengthen our national defense and security potential. We should strive for the building of a steadfast all-people national defense system in combination with the all-people national defense tactics. We should be completely familiar with revolutionary ideas of resolute, active, and positive assault, to be ready to defeat all plots and activities against us.

— We should pay utmost attention to party building work to strengthen party leadership over the army and public security forces, as well as over the national defense and security protection undertaking.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 9

BK1604102296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Ninth installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress in Hanoi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text]**8. Foreign Policy**

Our task in the field of foreign relations in the upcoming period will be as follows:

— Consolidate a peaceful environment and create more favorable international conditions for promoting economic development in the area of national construction and defense while at the same time making active contributions to the world people's common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress;

— Continue our foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, openness, and diversification and multilateralization of relations in the spirit of Vietnamese friendship toward all nations in the world and strive for peace, independence, and development;

— Effect regional and world integration and promote multifaceted, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation with all countries and international or regional organizations on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, and settlement of remaining problems and disputes through negotiations to ensure peace, stability, and security for development;

— Participate actively in international forums and in the settlement of global issues, and promote cooperation with the United Nations Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, international financial and monetary institutions, the World Trade Organization, and other international organizations;

— Develop relations with communist and workers' parties and other revolutionary, national independence, and progressive forces and establish and broaden relations with other parties, including those in power, on the basis of equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs;

— Expand external people-to-people relations and relations with foreign nongovernmental organizations;

— Secure broad-based sympathy and support from broad sections of the world people; and

— Contribute to promoting a trend of peace, cooperation, and development.

9. Effect Great National Unity and Develop People's Right To Achieve Mastery

Currently in the new stage of national construction, our people more than ever before have conditions for broadening the great unity bloc with the alliance of the working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia as a foundation for realizing the following common objective:

— Carry out the national unity policy at a new height and depth;

— Rally the great family of the Vietnamese people of all social classes, walks of life, ethnic groups, religious beliefs, and Vietnamese citizens at home and abroad; and

— Uphold the traditions of patriotism and national pride in the struggle to firmly maintain national independence and unity and advance toward the goals of a prosperous people, a strong country, and an equitable and civilized society.

The great unity bloc should take that overall objective as a common denominator while accepting those differences that are not at variance with the nation's common interests and making joint efforts to overcome prejudices, complexes, and hatred; look forward to the future; and promote the spirit of unity, openness, and mutual trust.

The above-mentioned objectives should be translated into concrete policies and activities of the party and state. In the coming years, mass mobilization work should focus on tapping all potential in revolutionary creativeness and on promoting the people's right to achieve mastery with a view to successfully implementing the tasks of the 1996-2000 five-year socioeconomic development plan. The following tasks should be carried out properly:

— Adopt concrete policies toward people of different social classes and strata and create new motive forces to stimulate a revolutionary movement among the people;

— Enact policies on building the working class and helping it develop in strength and class consciousness; raise its educational level, professional skills, and ability to absorb and innovate new technologies; possess an industrialized workstyle and sense of organization and discipline; work with ever higher productivity, quality, and efficiency; and serve as the core in building a steadfast alliance with the peasantry, intelligentsia, and other strata of the working people;

— Create more employment opportunities, gradually resolve the unemployment problems, improve working conditions, strengthen work safety procedures, reduce the volume of hard or hazardous work, observe work safety and industrial hygiene, and reduce to the lowest level incidents involving work-related accidents and occupational diseases;

— Provide adequate training and retraining for workers; make continued efforts to review, supplement, or perfect the remuneration policy and other social security policies for workers; and create conditions for workers to hold shares in business establishments.

With regard to the peasantry, it is necessary to implement the following tasks:

— Carry out an effective policy on land and forest allotment, check and overcome landlessness; give assistance in capital, technical knowhow, materials supply, and product marketing; develop processing industries and small industrial and handicraft operations;

— Increase production loans for poor peasants; develop rural credit funds; and combat usury, preharvest purchases of paddy, and illegal land transactions;

— Help peasants develop various forms of cooperation in production and business; and

— Work out a policy on a production protection fund for peasants against major natural disasters or major market fluctuations.

With regard to the intelligentsia, it is important to carry out the following tasks:

— Create conditions for access to information and new achievements of world sciences and upgrade their professional expertise and political knowledge;

— Enhance the freedom to create and apply scientific and technological advances;

— Apply a proper remuneration policy for talented people;

— Make adequate arrangements for scientific cadres to implement state research programs and projects; and

— Bring into play the role of the intelligentsia in the formulation of laws and policies.

With regard to private entrepreneurs, the following tasks should be implemented:

— Enact a policy on property and capital protection;

— Encourage investment and the broadening of production facilities and create favorable conditions for private entrepreneurs to do business and satisfactorily fulfill their law-defined obligations; and

— Concretize and seriously implement policies already issued toward women, teenagers, children, senior citizens, people who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution, entitlement individuals, ethnic minority groups, religious organizations, and overseas Vietnamese.

The ethnicity issue is of major strategic importance. From now to the year 2000, active measures should be taken to realize the following goals:

— Achieve tne three main targets of eliminate hunger, alleviating poverty, and stabilize and improve the living conditions of ethnic minorities;

— Promote the fine cultural identity of ethnic groups, wipe out illiteracy, and raise the people's intellectual standards;

— Train and assign the contingent of ethnic minority cadres and those working in ethnic minority areas; and build up strong party organizations in ethnic minority areas;

— Set up a concrete mechanism for implementing the guideline 'the people know, discuss, carry out, and control' major decisions and policies of the party and state;

— Satisfactorily introduce structures for the people to exercise their right of mastery through representatives elected by the people's organs or mass organizations. The people can directly exercise their right of mastery under various self-management groups or by regulations outlined in the grassroots. The party and state will continue to ensure democracy in the preparation, issuance, and execution of decisions.

— Continue to revamp the organization and working method of the fatherland front and mass organizations. The activities of the fatherland front will be consolidated and broadened. The front must really be an organization of the great unity bloc of all people, a place to the reflect aspirations and willpower of the people from all walks of life, and a locality to rally all public action to help the party and the government solve public disputes. The fatherland front must exercise democracy, revamp society, and take care of and protect the legitimate interests of the people from all walks of life. It must participate in the construction, supervision, and protection of the party and the government and the management of society. It must also carry out economic, cultural, social, national defense and security, and external relation duties to help consolidate the close ties between the people with the party and the state.

The party and the state must regularly brief the fatherland front on major decisions and policies. Through the front's activities, the party will be able to listen to all opinions contributed by all echelons and people from all walks of life on party and state guidelines and policies.

The General Federation of Labor, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Women's Union, the Peasants Association, and the Veterans Association need to gather all their members under various forms and organizations for public education and motivation. This is so that duties can be successfully carried out and the interest of members looked after. They must also represent their members in taking part in state affairs. They must direct their attention to the grassroots to develop their organization, strengthen action, socialize activities, train and foster cadres, and overcome the ills of authoritarianism and bureacracy in their activities. The state needs to promulgate a law on the formation of associations and create the necessary conditions for the operation of the mass organizations.

All party members must carry out the public mobilization in accordance with their duty. All party committees must pay attention to public mobilization and revamp the management of the fatherland front, mass organizations, and people's associations.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 10

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[Tenth installment of draft political report to be submitted by the Communist Party of Vietnam's Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 10. Continue to reform the state machinery, build and perfect the socialist state of Vietnam:

Efforts must be made to thoroughly understand the following points:

— To build the Vietnamese socialist state of the people, by the people, and for the people; taking the alliance of the working class, the peasantry, and intelligentsia as the foundation under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

— Fully ensure the people's rights to mastery, strictly maintain social discipline, exercise dictatorship toward all infringements against the interests of the fatherland and the people.

— The state power is unified with a division of responsibilities and coordination of work among state agencies in the exercise of legislative, administrative, and judicial powers.

— To implement the principle of democratic centralism in the organization and operation of the state; to strengthen socialist legislation; and to build the law-governed state of Vietnam.

— To govern society by laws while attaching importance to the education and upholding of the socialist morality; and to enhance the party leadership role toward the state.

In building and perfecting a strong, clean, capable, and efficient state machinery, we must satisfactorily carry out the following tasks in the next five years:

— To renovate and improve legislation and supreme supervision over the whole operation of the state.

— Regarding legislation: Efforts must be made to promulgate various essential laws to regulate different spheres of social life. Priority should be given to economic laws, laws on exercising citizens' rights, and laws on regulating the reform of state apparatuses. Importance should be attached to summing up the realities of Vietnam; improving the quality of law-making; and issuing various legal documents with concrete, comprehensible, and applicable provisions; gradually reduce the number of laws which stop short at general principles, lack definition, and require many written guides for its enforcement.

— Regarding control work: Efforts must be made to enhance the quality, authority, and efficacy of the National Assembly's control activities; clearly define the sphere, content, and mechanism of control of the National Assembly and its affiliated committees; clearly define the different characteristics, function, duty, and authority between the National Assembly's control work and other agencies and organization's investigation and control task. While making efforts to ensure citizens' rights in making complaints and criticism, we must study and provide guidance to create conditions for all citizens to detect issues and raise proposals to help ensure success for control work.

Administrative reform is the key task in building and perfecting the state in the years ahead. The administrative reform must be carried out on the basis of the law and should be conducted harmoniously in the following areas: reform of administrative institutions, improving organization of state apparatuses, and building and enhancing the contingent of administrative officials and functionaries.

— On reform of administration institutions: It is necessary to undertake radical reforms of administrative procedures both in institution and execution, cut down on the irrational procedures, reduce inconveniences; and prevent officialdom, corruption, and law violation.

— Regarding the organization of state apparatuses: It is essential to regulate the organizational structure, table of organization, and operational procedures of the administrative mechanism of various levels, making it a pure and neat mechanism which functions effectively and ensures a unified integrated work style from the central government to the local administration at the grass-roots level. Efforts must be made to develop the initiative and dynamism of localities, define the role and position of each echelon of the local administration, perfect the local administrative mechanism, and enable them to manage and promptly resolve issues demanded by the people in accordance with its authority.

— On the contingent of cadres and administrative officials: It is necessary to formulate and promulgate legal documents on public service and civil servant system; clearly define the obligations, responsibility, authority, rights and disciplines of administrative officials; design a system on recruitment, training, functions and selection of civil servants; build the contingent of cadres and state personnel with specialized and high professional skills, political consciousness, high sense of responsibility and justice, who carry out task with devotion and sobriety.

— Regarding reform of judicial organizations and operations: Efforts must be made to continue building and perfecting the system of legal documents and to it a basis for the organization and operation of various judicial institutions. This is to meet the new requirements of the Civil Code, the Law on Civil Procedures, the revised Law on Criminal Procedures; and laws and ordinances on administration, administrative courts, administrative proceedings, notary public, lawyers, judicial examination and so forth. All acts of law-breaking shall be published, all citizens are equal before the law.

Efforts should be made to consolidate and perfect the legislative agencies system, set up more specialized courts for administrative and labor disputes, reassess the jurisdiction of people's courts, expand the jurisdiction on preliminary hearings of the people's court at district level, renovate organization and activity of the system of people's organs of control as well as of agencies responsible for investigation, court order enforcement, and other legislative support services.

The contingent of legislative personnel including judges, court clerks, investigators, inspectors, enforcers, notary officers, valuers, and attorneys should be built up with high political and moral qualities, excellent standards of fairness and a spirit of impartiality, and sound professionalism to ensure that the legislative system will be pure and steadfast.

The struggle against corruption should be strengthened, and carried out resolutely and regularly within the state apparatus, in all sectors and all echelons from central to grassroots levels. Short-term measures should be combined with solutions of strategic significance to discover and extinguish corruption from its deepest roots. We should carry out satisfactorily the following tasks:

— Every cadre, party members, and state employee regardless of position and rank, must regularly cultivate moral qualities by himself, struggle with personal desires, and stay above the inducements of money which leads to corruption.

— Party, state, and mass organizations should have regulations on measures to manage, control, and educate their cadres, party members, employees, or organization members. They should also review all policies and regulations, locate existing flaws and loopholes, and draw up concrete measures to prevent corruption.

— Efforts should be made to have the policy where state employees declare all their earnings, as a precedent to the promulgation of legal documents requiring state employees to declare their assets.

— Leaders of agencies and units must be models to others, and bear main responsibility in fighting corruption. Staff with clean records, good political acumen and professionalism should be selected for anticorruption work. Efforts should be made to encourage all cadres, party members, and the people to participate actively in fighting corruption. The role of mass media agencies in this struggle should be heightened.

— We should strive to heighten the standards of political acumen, expertise, and efficiency of agencies specialized in state law and party discipline enforcement. Negativity within these agencies should be dealt with abruptly and resolutely.

— Instances of corruption in all places, in all levels, ranks, and positions should be handled strictly and a timely way.

Australia

Australia: Foreign Minister Defines Asian Policy

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[Text of an address by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer to the Foreign Correspondents' Association in Sydney on 11 April: "Australia and Asia: Taking the Long View"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

INTRODUCTION: Closer Engagement with Asia

I would like to thank the Foreign Correspondents' Association for their invitation to speak today. The community of foreign correspondents is an important channel for communication between Australia and the rest of the world.

Today, on the verge of my first formal trip as Foreign Minister to three countries of our region, namely Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, I want to give an unequivocal message to the region: closer engagement with Asia is the Australian Government's highest foreign policy priority.

Australia embraces the region because this country's prosperity and that of its neighbours depends upon our mutual success.

Australia embraces the region because, in the world of today, security must be cooperative.

Above all else, Australia embraces the region not only because these are our neighbours, but because we number them amongst our friends.

Beyond this simple message of commitment I also want to use this speech as a road map.

It is a guide to the policy direction the new Australian Government will take in its engagement with the region. In policy terms, it is about where Australia has come from in its relations with Asia, where Australia's relations with the region are heading and about how this country will get there.

PART ONE: Australia in Asia: A Longstanding Commitment

It is important therefore to start by clarifying the historical record.

I want to correct a misconception that Australia's engagement with Asia results from politicians in Canberra suddenly seeing the light in the 1990s after decades of neglect. Australia's recognition of the vital importance of Asia and of our region generally has a rich history of which even some Australians may not be fully aware.

I believe it is vital to understand this history if one is to understand both the depth of Australia's commitment to its region and the genuine desire for partnership that this Government and this country as a whole has.

The Asia Pacific region has been crucial to Australian foreign policy since the Menzies government opened our first independent diplomatic missions in 1940/41. Two of the first four were in Asia, in Japan and China.

And it is worth recalling that when the Coalition was in government from 1949-1972, Australia was at the forefront of efforts to ensure regional stability and economic development.

My predecessor Percy Spender was instrumental in developing the Colombo Plan in 1950 which was the region's first serious program of economic and technical cooperation. And he helped develop the ANZUS [Australia-New Zealand-U.S. Defense Pact] Treaty signed in 1951.

In 1957, despite the Labor Party's opposition, Prime Minister Menzies negotiated the Australia-Japan Trade Agreement. And it was under Menzies that Australia established the Ministerial Trade Talks with the Republic of Korea in 1966 — Australia's first such regular forum at that level with any country.

It was Richard Casey, Australia's Foreign Minister from 1951-60, who perhaps more than anyone pioneered Australia's modern relationship with our Asian neighbours. As he put it, "Our own special role lies in South East Asia and consequently our foreign policy is largely but not exclusively concerned with that region".

Casey's statement not only set the general pattern of Australia's relationships with our region but also ensured that Colombo Plan initiatives and UN programs brought real economic benefits to countries throughout the region. He also forged strong security ties with key partners in Asia.

This Casey-like pattern of Australia's engagement with Asia continued when the Coalition parties formed Australia's government from 1975-1983. It was Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who along with the Japanese Prime Minister Ohira, founded APEC's predecessor, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. The Fraser government's foreign policy, in the Casey tradition — what increasingly will become known as the Casey tradition — included a strong focus on issues of development and economic equity.

The point of recalling all this is to remind ourselves that a tide of Australian engagement in the Asia Pacific has been gathering momentum for more than half a century. Australian governments, both Coalition and Labor, have been energetically pursuing our interests in the region throughout the entire period of our diplomatic representation abroad.

This commitment to Asia is especially true today. There is a national consensus on the importance of Australia's engagement with Asia and there is a strong recognition that no side of Australian politics "owns" the Asia vision.

PART TWO: The New Asia Pacific Landscape

All history sheds light on the present. The long-standing engagement process that I have just outlined tells its story of the transformation of this country's relationships with its region, a region which is undergoing vast change.

The last decade has seen the economic and security environment of the Asia Pacific change dramatically — and generally for the better — under the twin influences of East Asia's economic transformation and the end of the Cold War.

Economic Changes in the Region

Looking forward I am confident that rapid economic growth in the region will continue and I am cautiously optimistic that growth will continue at high rates at least until the year 2020. By one favourable estimate the region will then include China as the biggest economy in the world, India the third or fourth, and Indonesia perhaps the fifth. Technological trends could see Malaysia with the economic profile of a developed country. Region-wide, the Asia Pacific would account for three-quarters of world trade and three-quarters of world output.

There is no doubt these changes in the region will have a potentially greater effect on our national fortunes than any external development since World War Two.

Australia's geographic position should allow us to capitalise on the enormous trade and investment opportunities that will result from this extraordinary economic transformation.

But Australia and our regional partners will need to look very carefully at the economic and social assumptions underlying that scenario, and will need to work hard to ensure it comes to fruition.

I reject the Krugman thesis that Asian growth is based merely on increased factor inputs rather than increased productivity. But I do believe all countries in the region will have to solve some very difficult problems to achieve sustainable growth and political stability over the long term.

Those issues needing to be addressed include: the impact of regional demand for capital on global interest rates and the impact of this factor and a shifting distribution of current account deficits on exchange rates.

Increasing prosperity will have an accelerating effect on the environment: when tens of millions of middle class people trade in bicycles for cars, for instance, greenhouse gas emissions will skyrocket. That is an issue that can't be put off indefinitely.

The Effect of Economic Changes

Growing prosperity will lead to social and political shifts, too. As the rapidly growing middle classes age, they are likely to save less of their income — as we are already seeing in Japan and Taiwan. In conjunction with the huge growth of investment needs in developing Asia, this may raise the global price of capital. The question is: by how much.

This poses the question as to whether Australia will be sufficiently competitive to compete for capital and maintain our investment levels, our productivity growth and therefore Australia's standard of living.

Within the region, the emerging middle class is likely to become more critical of their own governments. They will tend to hold politicians accountable for environmental degradation and economic pressures. Regional politicians, under pressure from newly assertive constituents, may be tempted to deflect blame to other governments, throwing pressure, in turn, on to relationships between the states of the region.

Security Implications of Economic and Social Change

Over the longer term, economic development will lead to shifts in power that will need to be accommodated through regional consensus. That process will rest on the framework of the relationships between the key major powers — the United States, China, Japan, Russia and India. Australia's security will be dictated in large part by how these relationships interact — but developing regional arrangements such as the ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF] can make a major contribution to influencing and shaping the future strategic environment.

The Australian government does not see any direct security threat to Australia, but there is some risk of a spillover of conflicts originating in the region. Particular challenges at present are the Korean Peninsula, the status of Taiwan, and the Spratly Islands.

There are other international dangers relating to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, environmental degradation and international crime. Importantly, the armed forces of the region are becoming increasingly capable as the growing wealth of regional economies allows the purchase of more powerful weaponry.

The Region: The Economic and Political Task Ahead for Australia

None of what I have outlined should make us any less confident about the future of the Asia Pacific. But Australia needs to keep working to ensure continuing regional prosperity and stability, especially through institutions such as APEC and the ARF. And Australia must clearly do more to increase our domestic competitiveness, to increase the depth and pace of microeconomic reform, to lift our savings rate, and to inject greater discipline into our macroeconomic performance generally.

It must be remembered, too, that the East Asia boom was launched on the back of free trade — initially through access to the giant United States market. Future rapid growth will continue to depend on free trade and investment, so all regional countries must now show greater commitment to strengthening the international trading system by removing barriers to trade and investment.

The intense debate over agriculture liberalisation in APEC illustrates the domestic pressures governments have to overcome. And it illustrates the key role APEC must play in keeping the region on the liberalisation track.

In short, the region is trying to establish long-term structures which will accommodate the massive economic transformation which will leave the region forever changed. The next 50 years will therefore depend on the decisions made over the next five. For these reasons alone, Australia must be actively involved in the region.

PART THREE: Policy Directions for Australia

The key question is how Australia will do this and now I want to set out clearly the main features of the Government's policy approach.

It will be clear to you from what I have said so far, that Australia's foreign policy will be built on the foundations of foreign policy laid by Casey and continued on by successive Australian governments.

Building on Regional Economic Structures

The first way the Government will be engaged in Asia is by building on regional economic structures. Australia will continue to contribute actively to the development of regional economic and security structures, and in particular APEC and the ARF. Those structures are central to building the trust, the sense of shared interests and the sense of shared responsibility that the Government believes are the essential basis for shaping the region's economic and security future.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that APEC develops as a non-discriminatory trading organisation. The Government will be pursuing that objective by seeking to put real flesh on the bones of the 1994 Bogor Declaration and the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda.

The Government's appointment today of Peter Grey, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's most senior trade negotiator, as Australia's Ambassador to APEC, is a clear sign of our commitment.

There is no doubt that APEC has real potential to contribute to Australia's future prosperity. It is also important in the context of our efforts to enhance regional stability. That is because the establishment of a process of informal multilateral consultation and dialogue is enabling governments with widely different political agendas to exchange views and develop a custom of consultation on regional issues.

The Australian Government will continue to place importance on the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference as an important forum, which brings together the ASEAN countries with all the other major players in the region, to discuss global and regional issues.

The Australian Government will take forward proposals for developing dialogues on an AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area]-CER [Closer Economic Relations between Australia and New Zealand] link. In addition, the Government is interested in exploring further Indian Ocean regional cooperation. Australia is, after all, an Indian Ocean country as well as an Asia Pacific nation.

Promoting Regional Security Cooperation

The second way the Government will pursue engagement in Asia is by further promoting regional cooperation on security. A custom of cooperative engagement lies at the heart of the development of the ARF, which is presently providing the principal avenue for security dialogue in the region. This Government strongly supports strengthening the ARF. The Government seeks to see it evolve into a body that contributes positively to the resolution of tensions and, through its adoption of practical cooperative measures, to understanding and confidence among regional countries.

Supporting APEC and the ARF is a growing web of bilateral and sub-regional defence and economic linkages.

The Government will continue strongly to support active United States engagement in the region's affairs. The US presence is central to regional security. It is the region's balancing wheel and overwhelmingly a positive force for regional stability. For that reason, Asia Pacific approaches should have primacy in regional economic and security arrangements. In that context the American alliance will remain a central feature of Australian security. In economic terms, one fact sums up how important the United States is to us and the region: the US is the largest trading partner of Australia's largest trading partners — Japan, Greater China and Korea.

Strengthening the Focus on Bilateral Relations

The third way the Government will promote engagement in Asia is by strengthening the focus on bilateral relations.

Australia's relationship with Indonesia will continue to be of particular and growing importance. Indonesia's regional influence will undoubtedly continue to grow and the Government will be working hard further to strengthen the relationship. The Australian Government wants, in particular, to increase the level of trade between our two countries while also developing our diplomatic and strategic relationship.

Specifically, the new Government places high priority on the Australia Indonesia Ministerial Forum to meet later this year in Jakarta. The forum provides both governments with an ideal vehicle addressing key issues and advancing strong commercial and strategic links.

Before travelling to Jakarta next week I believe it is important to reaffirm that the Australian Government does support the Agreement on Maintaining Security that was concluded late last year between Australia and Indonesia.

The Government will also be working to advance Australia's relations with the other ASEAN countries. Australia's primary objective will be not only to advance our economic and security interests, but also to improve the overall quality and strength of our contacts in ASEAN countries, so that Australian regional influence will be enhanced.

The Prime Minister's decision to send a special envoy to Kuala Lumpur within four hours of being sworn in and the genuine warmth of Dr Mahathir's stopovers are encouraging signs of early progress.

The Government will also be working to improve commercial relations. In particular, the Government will be taking initiatives to redress our declining share of foreign direct investment in ASEAN countries.

Of course, Australia will maintain and enlarge our relationship with Japan. Apart from being directly vital to Australia's economic future, Japan is the preponderant regional economic force in Asia. Australia believes there is more that can be done to fulfil the vast potential of the bilateral relationship. The Government will continue to encourage Japanese deregulation. The Government is also determined to expand our cooperation with Japan on a wide range of political and security issues as part of a continuing transformation of the relationship from its original trading base to a fully rounded and diverse partnership.

Australia's relationship with China will remain a central feature of Australian foreign policy. As China's economy modernises and expands, its influence as a regional and global power will become increasingly apparent. It will naturally be active in pursuing its national interests, and of course you would expect that. It is important for all regional countries that as China assumes its place as a major power, it is able to reassure other members of the region that it is committed to working with them in the region's broad interests. Australia will be engaging with China cooperatively and the Australian Government will maintain our one-China policy.

The Coalition Government will encourage the development of strong trade and investment links with China across all sectors — primary, manufacturing and services. It will build on the natural complementarities between the two economies and draw upon the Chinese Australian business community's links with China.

The Republic of Korea is a country of great importance to Australia. Its stability is central to the preservation of regional security and Korea is now Australia's second largest export market and fourth largest trading partner.

In particular, the Australian Government will be looking to step up ministerial-level contacts as well as to establish regular dialogue on political and security issues. On economic issues, the Australian Government will seek greater market access for services and agricultural products.

Finally, Australia will pursue a more positive approach to Indian involvement in regional structures. In both economic and security terms, India is emerging as a major and dynamic regional player.

The Australian Government will support its participation in the ARF, and Australia recognises India's strong and understandable interest in APEC membership. The

Government believes its claims, along with those of other strong contenders like Vietnam, should be given close consideration when APEC reaches a consensus that it should again expand membership.

The Australia-India New Horizons promotion later this year underlines the importance the Australian Government attaches to the relationship with India, which we will be upgrading across the board. And we will work with India to encourage economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

PART FOUR: New Emphases under the Coalition Government

My review of the Coalition Government's policy directions makes it clear that this Government will be building on, not tearing down, the previous government's work. But there are, nonetheless, real differences of policy emphasis between the Coalition and Labor. These differences will work to strengthen Australia's engagement with Asia.

First, in developing Australia's national interests in a realistic way, this Government will be placing greater emphasis on strengthening key bilateral relationships throughout the region. Strong bilateral relationships are the core of a successful regional policy. The previous government put a strong emphasis on multilateralism, but sometimes it neglected the development of major bilateral relationships. The key point to be made here is that multilateral institutions will always be far more effective if the countries within them have confident, strong bilateral ties.

Secondly, the Australian Government sees a strong domestic economy and increased international economic competitiveness as a key foundation of successful foreign policy. Economic competitiveness brings international credibility and influence in all areas of our national interests — security as well as economic. The Government's commitment to labour market reform, and to further microeconomic reforms in shipping, the waterfront, transport and communications is vital to Australia assuming its place among the dynamic nations of the Asia Pacific.

Thirdly, the Government recognises that while governments establish much of the framework for international relationships most of the substance belongs to businesses and private individuals. Community support is crucial to engagement with Asia, and the Australian Government will be working to build it.

Therefore, the Government will be reforming the Treaty-making process so as to ensure that as Australia engages more closely with the region the Australian community is given a greater role in that process itself. If Australia is to engage with our region then the community must be brought into and own the process. I do not think, let me say, it is something that can automatically be taken for granted.

A vital message that the Australian Government will communicate more clearly is that a policy of "Asia First" does not mean "Asia Only". Nor is Australia's regional policy a case of all "Asia" and no "Pacific". The Government is committed to maintaining and strengthening those crucial links. Australia, like its neighbours, has global interests to pursue and assets to nurture. Australia does not need to give priority to the region at the expense of interests elsewhere.

Australia has important interests and ties in the South Pacific.

Australia's foreign policy needs to reflect, too, the fact that Australia has intimate links with countries like Britain, Greece, Italy and Germany, as well as with the newer source countries for immigration from within our own region.

Fourthly, this Government believes that Australia's links with North America and Europe can be an asset to our Asian neighbours that Australia should use more creatively.

I do not want to overplay this theme. Communications between Asian countries and Europe/North America run principally through direct channels. But there are occasions when Australian perceptions, interests and experience add distinctive value.

This was evident only last month when a regional country — Thailand — explicitly recognised the value of Australia's connections with North America and Europe. In Thailand's Defence White paper it was noted that, "Thailand must cooperate with other nations that play important roles in maintaining world peace, such as Australia, a regional country that has close relations with Europe and the United States."

The fifth difference in emphasis between this Government and our predecessors will be our style of interaction with the region. Australia will say what we think and believe, but this Government will make it clearer that Australia's engagement with Asia is a process of mutual give-and-take, a process of learning, a process of common endeavour.

Australia has both given to, and gained from, our neighbours: in science and technology, in cultural and human terms, in cooperation across the whole range of the international agenda. Australia needs to acknowledge the gains more.

Australia should also pause more often to acknowledge the contribution that immigrants from Asia have made to Australia. For example, our excellence in information technology relies heavily on skilled Asian immigrants, at all levels of the industry. Ethnic networks boost our exports and of course they enrich Australian culture.

Individuals have made outstanding contributions. Dr John Yu's contribution to children's medicine earned him the Australian of the Year award for 1996. I am pleased to see that in the Victorian State elections two weeks ago Mr Lim Hong added to the growing number of Asian-born Australians who have entered State and Federal Parliaments.

The Government will also continue to encourage Australia's diversity and tolerance. Remarks thrown around during the course of the federal elections raised questions on that score overseas, notably in Asia. I want to make it absolutely clear that the Coalition Government is resolutely opposed to racist sentiment, whether directed against our indigenous population or against people of any other ethnic origin. That is an iron-clad guarantee.

PART FIVE: Conclusion

The priorities and policy approach I have set out today are based on Australia taking the long view of its commitment to the region. Australia has a proud history in the region, and this Government is fully committed to ensuring an even more substantial future.

I referred earlier to my predecessor Richard Casey and his statement that Australia's own special role lies in South East Asia and that Australia's foreign policy is largely but not exclusively concerned with our region. Today, despite a radically different Asia Pacific landscape and the vast changes of the subsequent 40 years of history, Casey's words find new meaning in this Government's continued commitment to Asia as our highest foreign policy priority.

Australia is neither Asian nor American nor European. We are Australian and relate to our neighbours as Australians. While the goal of Australia's national interests extends beyond Asia, the history of our engagement with Asia and the policies I have outlined today reflect and express the fundamental conviction of this Government: that Australia is and must always be an active player in the region.

This Government is committed to advancing Australia's security and prosperity with its Asian partners.

It is committed to improving country to country relations.

It is committed to developing and improving Australia's economic performance in the region.

Finally, and most importantly, this Government is committed to fostering the people to people contacts which are the single best guarantee of regional trust and interaction.

This message of Australia's full commitment to Asia and to the region is the message I will be taking to Asia when I visit Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand next week.

And it is the message the Prime Minister and every cabinet minister will be taking each time they make their visits to and build relations with Asia in the weeks and years that lie ahead of this Government.

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